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# RUSHFORD AND RUSHFORD PEOPLE

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by  
Helen Josephine White Gilbert

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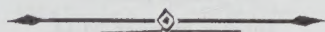
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# Rushford and Rushford People

Planned, Edited and Published

by

Helen Josephine White Gilbert

Historical Committee of  
Rushford's Centennial

1910

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## PREFACE

This book is a result of the Rushford Centennial which was held August 16-21, 1908. It has been written to keep in memory not only the names but the noble deeds and the bright sayings of those who helped to make the town what it was and is.

The preparation of the material which appears here was begun February 1, 1908, and has been continued to the present time. Old letters, diaries, deeds, records of various kinds, and copies of the *Republican Era*, the *News Letter* and the *Spectator* have been used. The books which have been consulted are "75th Anniversary of the Baptist Church of Rushford, N. Y.," "Home Life in Colonial Days" by Alice Morse Earle, "Nathaniel Ely and his Descendants," compiled by Heman Ely, "History of the Genesee Conference" by Conable, "Allegany County Directory" (1874-5), "History of Allegany County" (1879), "Allegany and its People" (1896), "Pioneer History" by Turner, and "History of Cattaraugus County." I must express my great obligation to my son, Allan H. Gilbert, for his assistance in copying the manuscripts and for his valuable criticisms; also to Miss Ellen Lyman for her aid in getting school matter ready for publication. In preparing the roster of soldiers I gladly acknowledge my indebtedness to Miss Mildred Hildreth, Philander D. Ellithorpe, John R. Heald and Abram J. Lyon. The list of pastors of the Free Methodist Church was furnished by the Rev. C. E. Pike, that of the Methodist Episcopal Church by Miss Ellen Gordon. In writing the sketch upon the Methodist Episcopal Church I received help from a paper written by James Benjamin, and in writing the one upon the Presbyterian Church I was aided by

## Preface

Mrs. Aurora Thompson Green. Martin Lyon, F. E. Hammond, S. E. Kilmer, Chauncey Williams, Newell White, Mrs. Cornelia Metcalf, Chester Perry, and last but not least, my husband, Eddy C. Gilbert, have been especially helpful to me in my work. I wish to express my appreciation to the many for their interest, their good wishes and their generous response both to numerous questions and to requests for written contributions.

In any revision of the papers it has been my aim to preserve not only the thought but the individuality of the writer. Owing to the great variety of matter, there is something in the book to interest everyone. As a work of reference it will be of value since no pains have been spared to make sure of accuracy.

If the readers of the book receive in its perusal something of the pleasure and profit which have been derived from its preparation, I shall be satisfied.

HELEN J. WHITE GILBERT.

Rushford, New York, July, 1910.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER.		PAGE.
I	Centennial Address .....	I
II	Soil and Forests—F. Eugene Hammond.....	4
III	Families .....	11
	The Gary Family—Frank Eneas Woods.....	11
	The Swifts .....	17
	William Vaughan.....	19
	Abel Belknap.....	20
	The Gordons.....	22
	Josephus Young.....	31
	The Woodses—Clarissa Woods Calkins.....	32
	Abraham J. Lyon.....	39
	Thomas Pratt.....	41
	The Bennetts—Allan H. Gilbert.....	42
	Samson Hardy.....	47
	The Bannisters—Albert W. Bannister.....	49
	The Bannisters—Amelia Bannister DeBerczy.....	51
	The Bannisters—The Ely Book.....	56
	The Thirds—Nancy E. DeKay.....	58
	The Perrys.....	60
	Luther Woodworth.....	62
	John Hammond.....	64
	Amba Alderman.....	66
	The Freemans.....	67
	The Goings—Harriet Going Colby.....	68
	The Orcutts—Allan H. Gilbert.....	71
	Matthew P. Cady.....	75
	James McCall.....	76
	Levi Benjamin.....	79
	Samuel Persons.....	81
	David Board.....	83
	James Kendall.....	85
	David Kinney.....	88
	Daniel Ely—Julia Williams Straight.....	89
	The Gillettes, including a story told by Charles B. Kendall—V. R. Gillette.....	90
	Asa Benjamin.....	94
	Elijah Lyman.....	95
	The Butterfields.....	97
	Charles Hapgood—Emer Corse.....	100
	The Taylors.....	100
	B. T. Hapgood and Family.....	102
	The Tarbells.....	105
	Chapman Brooks.....	107
	The Searls.....	109

## Contents

Samuel White—Helen J. White Gilbert.....	111
The Griffins.....	116
George Scott.....	120
Charles White.....	122
Joseph Bell—Mary Bell Dickey.....	124
Rufus Adams—Viola Adams Farwell.....	127
Micah Hall.....	128
The Sextons.....	131
Alvin K. Morse.....	132
The Smiths—Irene Smith Kendall.....	134
The Kingsburys.....	138
The Leavens.....	142
Billings and Hannah Walker—Julia Tarbell Merrill	149
Newbury Eddy—Eddy C. Gilbert.....	151
Nahum Ames—Augusta Ames Woods.....	153
A. W. E. Damon—Charles M. Damon.....	153
Harmon Hyde—Mary Ann Hyde.....	157
Harris Gilbert—Eddy C. Gilbert.....	158
Aaron Rice.....	161
Israel Thompson—Julia Thompson.....	162
The Hillarys—Maude Howard Brady.....	164
The Rev. Elijah Metcalf—Flora Metcalf Thomas..	166
James H. Green—Ellen Green Nye.....	172
The Moores—Eddy C. Gilbert.....	174
The Colburns.....	175
Robert English—Victoria English Gordon.....	177
John Lamberson—Frank Lamberson.....	180
Randolph Heald.....	181
John G. Osborn.....	183
Isaiah Lathrop—Alice Lathrop Holden.....	184
David Babbitt—Allan H. Gilbert.....	186
Michael Warren—Albert L. Warren.....	189
The Beechers—David Herbert Beecher.....	190
The Georges—David Herbert Beecher.....	193
The Georges—Agnes George Taylor.....	193
Robert Morrow.....	196
John W. Hill—Jennie W. Bush.....	197
The Thomases—John J. Thomas.....	198
The Churches.....	201
The First Baptist Church.....	201
Mission Circle—Jennie A. Westcott.....	207
Social—Jennie A. Westcott.....	208
The First Methodist Episcopal Church.....	209
Reminiscences—Frank Eneas Woods.....	219
Reminiscences—Esther B. Woods Eldridge....	220
Reminiscences—T. W. Chandler.....	221
Remodeling of the M. E. Church—Anon.....	225
Ladies Aid Society—Ellen E. Gordon.....	227
Epworth League.....	230

# Contents

The Freewill Baptist Church.....	231
The Presbyterian Church.....	232
The Wesleyan Methodist Church.....	235
The Universalist Church—Ellen Green Nye.....	236
The First Free Methodist Church.....	239
Bequests or Requests—Arlie White Ives.....	241
The Schools.....	243
History of the Schools—Ellen Lyman.....	243
Reminiscences of V. R. Gillette—Ellen Lyman.....	248
Reminiscences of W. F. Bennett—Ellen Lyman.....	250
Memory Pictures—Sarah Ford Crosby.....	253
Song—E. L. Stone.....	256
The First Philomathean Society—W. F. Bement... ..	258
The Mystic Association—E. L., H. J. W. G.....	260
The Second Philomathean Society.....	263
The Polyhymnian Society.....	266
The Present Philomathean Society—E. L., H. J. W. G.....	271
Alumni Poem—Lucy Marsh Poate.....	273
College Graduates, etc.....	277
Artists .....	279
Physicians .....	280
The Medical Profession.....	280
Anecdotes, etc.....	284
Recollections of a Physician—Orrin T. Stacy.....	286
Town Meetings, Supervisors and Town Clerks.....	294
Societies .....	298
Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons.....	298
Rushford Lodge.....	298
Joseph Enos Lodge—Eddy C. Gilbert.....	303
Banquet of the Rushford Historical Society.....	304
War .....	307
An Interesting Letter of War Time—A. W. E. Damon .....	307
Roster of Soldiers.....	309
War of the Revolution.....	310
War of 1812.....	312
Civil War.....	313
Celebration in Rushford of the Taking of Richmond .....	338
Music .....	340
The History of Music—Sophia Benjamin Taylor..	340
The Rushford Band—Sumner E. Kilmer, Abram J. Lyon.....	343
The Rushford Cornet Band—Frank Eneas Woods..	347
Our Bells .....	349
Reminiscences .....	351
Reminiscences—Maria Benjamin.....	351
Wolves—Julia Williams Straight.....	355
Recollections—Ellen White Hubbell.....	356
Reminiscences of Rushford—Cornelia Gilman Green .....	358



## Contents

	Recollections—B. J. Jewell.....	361
	Reminiscences—Esther B. Woods Eldridge.....	362
	Reminiscences of Podonque—Esther B. Woods Eldridge, Clarissa Woods Calkins.....	364
	Rushford Reminiscences—Harrison L. Wilson....	366
	Recollections of Kelloggville, Rush Creek and East Rushford—Hosea B. Ackerly.....	376
	Reminiscences—Mary Smith.....	386
	Recollections and Characteristics—Helen M. Judd..	392
	Reminiscences of Rushford—Charles M. Damon...	399
	Rushford and Rushford People—Mary E. Lane....	414
	Recollections—Orrin Leslie Elliott.....	433
	Retrospection—Clara Bristol Tiffany.....	437
	A Picture—Florence Octavia Munger.....	444
	Moriturus Ave!—G. W. F. Buck.....	445
XIII	Great Celebrations.....	449
	Semi-Centennial .....	449
	A Leaf from My Journal—Cynthia Woodworth..	455
	Rushford's Centennial and Home Coming Week...	458
	The Relics.....	470
	The Choir, the Orchestra, the Double Quartet and the Band—Clara Elizabeth Poate, Helen J. White Gilbert.....	477
	The Farmers' Parade—Russell M. Wilmarth....	481
	The School Day Parade—Lucy Marsh Poate, Clara Elizabeth Poate, Allan H. Gilbert .....	486
	Old Home Week at Rushford—Mary Sherwood .....	494
	Baseball Team—Abram P. Benjamin.....	497
XV	Cheese .....	500
	Early Cheese Making.....	500
	Pineapple Cheese.....	501
	The Rushford Cheese Factory.....	502
	Cheese Box Factories.....	503
XVI	Fires .....	505
XVII	Asheries .....	511
XVIII	The Storm of 1838.....	513
XIX	The Flood of August 16 and 17, 1864.....	514
XX	Railroads .....	517
	Our Lost T. V. and C. R. R.....	517
	The Railroad—Lucretia Elmer Morse.....	518
XXI	Miscellaneous .....	521
XXII	Public Entertainments.....	532
XXIII	Movements—Ellen Lyman.....	543
XXIV	The Press—Eddy C. Gilbert.....	548
XXV	Rushford .....	554
	An Editorial, Entitled Rushford—H. E. Purdy....	554
	Rushford in 1848.....	555
	A Comparison.....	560
	Rushford .....	564

## List of Illustrations

	PAGE.
Helen White Gilbert.....	Frontispiece
Old Home Week at Rushford, 1908.....	10
Mr. and Mrs. William L. Gary.....	15
Jedediah Buckingham Gordon.....	23
Daniel Clark Woods.....	29
Mrs. Ely (Nancy Gary) Woods.....	33
Marena Woods.....	38
H. Nelson Hammond.....	65
John Hammond.....	65
Mrs. Myra A. Persons Farwell.....	82
Charles Hanford Kendall.....	86
Hiram B. Gilbert.....	91
Mrs. Hiram B. Gilbert.....	91
Mrs. Cynthia A. Woodworth.....	108
Frank E. White and sons Thomas and Robert.....	112
Henry Kirke White.....	114
Store Built by Oramel Griffin.....	119
Mrs. Harriet Swift White.....	123
C. K. B. Smith.....	135
Grover M. Pratt.....	143
Inez L. Leavens.....	145
Eddy C. Gilbert.....	159
Residence of George Gant.....	160
Rev. Elijah Metcalf.....	167
Levi Metcalf.....	167
Mrs. Cornelia Metcalf English.....	169
John R. Heald.....	182
Obed T. Wilmot.....	202
William Gordon.....	210
William H. Thomas.....	242
Rushford Academy.....	246
Allan H. Gilbert.....	278
Orrin T. Stacy, M. D.....	281
Alamanzo W. Litchard.....	297
Sumner E. Kilmer.....	329
Harvey Crocker.....	385
Mr. and Mrs. Abraham J. Lyon.....	450
Samuel White.....	453
Rev. Thomas L. Pratt.....	453
Mr. and Mrs. Irving McCall.....	467
Among the Relics.....	471
Farmers' Parade—Old Home Week.....	482
Old Home Week—School Parade.....	487
Clothing Rooms and Post Office, 1859.....	507
Jesse P. Bixby, M. D., and grandson, Clarence Wilmot.....	563
Tarbell House.....	565
Upper Main Street.....	567
The Man with the Shovel.....	570
Map .....	..





## CENTENNIAL ADDRESS

Helen J. White Gilbert

**A**LTHOUGH the writing of the history has been a task, it has been a pleasant one. At first it seemed as if a thick veil were hung before our eyes, through which we were vainly trying to peer into the past, but at times the curtain has been lifted and we have seen visions. The dry bones of the valley have been clothed with flesh and we have walked and talked with the worthies of old.

The relationships in our town are marvelous to contemplate. Probably there is no man in the country who has more relatives than Fred G. Gordon,\* belonging to the large family of Gordons and related to all the Garys, all the Tarbells, all the Kendalls, and—as if that were not enough, he must marry a Woods. If Mr. Gordon should make a dinner party some day and invite all his relatives we would all go.

The Holland Purchase was an immense tract of land in western New York, comprising (with the exception of the State mile strip along the Niagara River and the Indian reservations) Niagara, Erie, Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties and the western portions of Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming and Allegany counties. It was owned by a number of rich merchants of Amsterdam, Holland, who formed the Holland Land Company. In a deed dated 1818, their names were Wilhelm Willink, Henry Vollenhoven and Rutger Jan Schimmelpennick. The surveyor and local land agent who had charge of the settlement of the Holland Purchase was

\*W. H. Leavens rivals Mr. Gordon in the number of relatives.

## Centennial Address

Joseph Ellicott, an able man, rich, single, and melancholy. His name still lives in Ellicott Square, Buffalo, and in Ellicottville. It was to Ellicottville that the settlers went to make their payments. The first six to take out articles for land in Rushford, in 1808, were Chas. Swift, Eneas Gary, Othniel Perry, William Vaughan, Andre Bennett and Joshua Wilson.

The Indians who roamed through the forests belonged to the tribe of Senecas, a part of the Iroquois Confederacy.

As many of the inhabitants came from Windsor County, Vermont, they decided to name the town Windsor; but it was given up as there was already in the State a place by that name. Wilson Gordon of Topeka, Kansas, says that it was named Rushford because of the rushes growing along the Caneadea Creek. Samuel White said that it was named after Dr. Rush of Philadelphia, an eminent physician and signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The pioneers were not effeminate but men of strength with interesting individualities. If intemperance and profanity were more common then than today, it was the fault of the times. The cause of temperance has made great progress since 1808, when the members of the first temperance organization in the country agreed not to drink rum, except at public dinners and when they did not feel well. During the first fifteen years no indictable offense was committed in town. Some one has said that Rushford, with its industry, its thrift, and its morals, was a second New England.

For the golden days of Rushford we must look back before the Civil War took the flower of our youth, before steam power was used in manufacturing, before and soon after the Erie Railroad was completed, when timber was

## Centennial Address

abundant, when children numbered nine, and when the garments a man wore, the chair he sat upon and the wagon in which he rode to church might all have been labeled "Made in Rushford." Before 1850 Rushford was the liveliest place in Allegany County. In 1855 the population was at its height, numbering two thousand.

The past of our town has been glorious. If we develop the best that is in us and are loyal to her institutions her future may be glorious.

---

The territory of the following towns of Allegany County was included in the Holland Purchase: Centerville, Rushford, New Hudson, Cuba, Clarksville, Genesee, Hume, Caneadea, Belfast, Friendship, Wirt, Bolivar. When Caneadea was formed, March 11, 1808, it embraced the territory of all the towns named above except Centerville and Hume.

Rushford was formed from Caneadea in 1816, and Haight, now New Hudson, was formed from Rushford April 10, 1825. The present township of Rushford was known as township five, range two, in the survey of the Holland Land Company. It was divided into lots by Wm. Rumsey in the summer of 1807, and the land was immediately offered for sale. The township is divided into sixty-four lots. Lot number 1 is in the southeast corner of the township, north of it is lot number 2, and west is lot number 9. The village of Rushford is in the center of the township where lots 28, 29, 36, and 37 corner.

## II

### SOIL AND FORESTS

(Farmers' Day Address)

F. Eugene Hammond.

Mr. President, Friends and Fellow-Farmers:

IT is a pleasure to be here this day of the "Old Home Week," and take part in your exercises by presenting to you a short address relating to the soil and forestry of Rushford township. This subject has been of deep interest to me from boyhood—an inheritance, perhaps, from my mother, who passed most of her life in this vicinity, and who had, like myself, an especial love for those lesser children of Nature—the trees of the forest.

During the ages past—an eternity to us—the rocks were formed at the bed of the sea. Later, these were elevated above sea-level, and in a still later period, were broken to pieces and changed into soil through the two giant forces, ice and fire, or in other words, through the action of water, heat and cold.

Through all of the western part of the State of New York, as well as in the township of Rushford, the soil that lies upon the surface, varying in depth in valley and upland, has been produced from the primitive rocks in this manner, and largely, too, in a comparatively recent age known as the "Drift or Ice Period."

Prior to the "Drift Period," the surface of this area was, in all probability, at a higher elevation than the present hill-tops, and also nearly level. The bed rocks as we find them now along the western slope of the Alleghany Mountains, lie nearly horizontal, dipping a little faster to



## Soil and Forests

the southwest than the average level of the surface. In proof of this, we find the pebble sand-rocks of Venango County, near Oil City, Pa., that lie nearly four hundred feet below the river-level along the Allegheny River, gradually rise to the surface at Warren, Pa., and coming still further northeast, remnants of this same rock strata are found in Allegany and Cattaraugus counties on the hill-tops, known to us as "Rock Cities." Lying under these sand-rocks are shales and slates that make a rich soil when broken or dissolved into dirt.

You may ask, "How is it known that the slates and shales make good soil, and that the rocks lie horizontal, also, that our hills are formed by erosion instead of volcanic action?" One answer is, we have found these facts in drilling for petroleum or rock-oil. In this work, we find that our uplands and hills have slates and shales that are not found when drilling in the valleys, while the bedrocks beneath the soil of our valleys are found under our hills, at a depth equal to the elevation of the well being drilled above the level of the valleys. As to the quality of the soil formed from shales and slates, we have set fruit trees in the drillings brought to the surface from these rocks, and found that the trees grew faster and larger than in common soil, also that the surrounding vegetation was affected in a like manner.

Geologists who have made a study of that area of the United States which extends from the New England States southwesterly to the Mississippi Valley believe that the time which has elapsed since the close of the "Ice Period," to be from forty thousand to sixty thousand years. This seems a very long time to us, but it is merely yesterday when compared to the total age of the rocks which form

## Soil and Forests

the planet on which we live. How this immense field of ice (which is believed to have been a mile or more in thickness) happened to be placed on this part of the earth, as well as over northern Europe, is a matter of mere conjecture. There are many theories, but not one that wholly explains the phenomenon. However, it seems certain to have been here, and to have remained centuries before the alternating temperature of summer and winter came to change it into rushing, whirling waters, that tore the rocks to pieces and cut channels and gorges in a mad rush to the sea.

The "Ice Period" was ushered out in a slow and gradual manner, which, while it tore the sand rocks, slates, and shales in pieces, also mixed the substances composing them in varying proportions, and left a part along our valleys and dells, even as we see the process being carried out in a small way today. Some of the deposits of this mixture of rocks, left along our streams and valleys, compose the banks of gravel with sand and clays mixed, making the loam-land soil found in the eastern part of this township. In other places on our hills and hill-sides, the clay made from the shales predominated, with little or no sand and gravel.

The continued action of the seasons on this soil, further dissolving it and making it finer, at length prepared and made it ready for that new life which we name the tree kingdom, to come, take root, and flourish. And it came, but from where, and in what manner, we do not know. But we do know that for centuries it was here in all its beauty and majesty, adding its contributions of wood and leaf-mold to the soil, which through the whole process become the best for producing a greater variety of fruits, grains, and grasses than any other on the planet.

## Soil and Forests

Here, a century ago, only a century, stood the most magnificent forest on the globe. Rooted to this soil was a variety of trees unequaled in value. Here stood the white pine, the hemlock, the maple, the beech, the ash, the cherry, the oak, the chestnut, the birch, the elm, the basswood, the cucumber, the hickory and other smaller kinds. Thick they stood, each kind rooted to the soil best adapted to its needs, reaching their twigs and branches from the long trunks, high and higher in the struggle of life, that each might drink in through its foliage the breath of the sunlight. Beneath them, in the shadow, close to earth, nestled the vegetation—vernal wild-flowers, ferns and mosses. Such luxuriance, such panoramic pictures of sun and shade, such changing scenes of virgin wilderness could only be portrayed by one hand—the Artist-hand of God painting the pictures of Nature. Among these forests, as our earth gradually became fitted for his life and maintenance, came another form of life—Man. A pygmy he seemed, in comparison to the giant trees beneath which he crept. One hundred years ago the first white settler came to this township to make his home. Many others, year by year for a period of thirty or more years, followed. Each settled upon a parcel of the forest-land, usually a hundred acres or less, dividing a section of three hundred and sixty acres into three or four parts.

Each settler, on arrival, with ax in hand, and a pair of oxen, either his or borrowed from a neighbor a mile or more away, began to cut and dispose of the trees that covered his ground. He could utilize for fuel and a log habitation only a mere fraction of them. Acre after acre of timber was cut, logged and burned on the ground. Nearly all the timber was destroyed in this manner, the work continuing

## Soil and Forests

until 1850. Since then the waste has gone steadily on in other ways, until now hardly an acre of virgin forest stands in the township. Practically the same condition prevails all over New York and Pennsylvania. The fact is, we are facing a timber famine. From the State of Maine to the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, and south to where the long and short leaf pitch-pine grows, there is practically no timber of any consequence. Even that outside of this area is disappearing so rapidly that it is no wonder the government has taken steps to save the remaining timberlands of our country.

It would have been almost impossible for our early settlers to have lived in this hilly district, with its rugged winters, had it not been for the protection offered them by the forest, and the wonderful capability of a soil, made fertile by centuries of forest mold, to produce a diversity of products. What a change in this place today! The forests gone; the soil impoverished through lack of proper cultivation; land abandoned, except for the scanty pasturage it affords! Would it not be well for the farmers and landowners to give serious attention to more scientific methods of agriculture, and to use every effort for the preservation of the little ill-kept timber we have left? If we would all begin a systematic effort to set out trees in waste places, such as ravines and steep hillsides, it would accomplish much. Future generations would heed the lesson given, and continue the work. Our children would thank us and remember us kindly for our forethought. We should soon see the reward for our efforts, for trees grow rapidly in this climate with its natural tree soil. I hope the Grange in this township will take the initiative in this tree preservation and culture, thus starting and extending the educational work to other agricultural societies of our State.



## Soil and Forests

Something of the story of the rocks, soil and forests of this township, as I have endeavored to tell it, is portrayed in the following brief poem of twelve lines:

About the trembling, palpitating Earth,  
    Their weapons Ice and Fire, with ruin soiled,  
A thousand epochs ere the Pygmy's birth  
    The planetary Giants fought and toiled.

The Artist-dream of an eternity—  
    They wrought the Vision as the ages fell—  
A varied Eden, clothed with flower and tree  
    From shining upland to each dusky dell.

Then, while they slept, the crafty Pygmy came  
    With tiny ax—and in a century's haste  
Crept o'er the Picture—gave it bounds and name,  
    And marred the Vision to his human taste.



Old Home Week at Rushford, 1908.

### III

## RUSHFORD FAMILIES

### THE GARY FAMILY

F. E. Woods

**E** NOS GARY, the first settler of the township of Rushford, New York, was born in Taunton, Bristol County, Massachusetts, September 23, 1757. He with two brothers, Seth and Loved, and one sister, Hannah, comprised the children of the household. These brothers kept the family lines of their descendants separate by each spelling the surname differently as Gary, Garey and Geary. Governor Gerry of that State, said to be a relative by one versed in Gary genealogy, had still a different spelling of the name. The daughter of the sister Hannah married a Mr. Bridgman. Their daughter, Laura Bridgman, was in her day about as celebrated as Helen Keller, having been rendered deaf, dumb and blind by scarlet fever when two years of age. Dr. Samuel G. Howe, husband of Julia Ward Howe, won great notoriety by educating Laura Bridgman, and has been called the Cadmus of the blind. Miss Bridgman became a skillful teacher of the blind at Perkins Institute, Boston. Charles Dickens, the English novelist, visited her and wrote of her in his "American Notes."

Enos Gary early moved to Lebanon, Connecticut, where he enlisted for the Revolutionary War. He was in the mercantile business as an importer. His partner, a relative, took funds to England to pay on account and make purchases but died while on this business, and as no papers of payment were found on him, Mr. Gary was again obliged to send funds for settlement which he made in full and closed the firm's business. The opening of the Holland Purchase

## Rushford Families

attracted eastern people so Mr. Gary, as the records in the Allegany County Atlas show, took up lot number thirty, about half a mile north of Rushford Village, in 1808, moving his family from Weathersfield, Vermont, where he had been in business about one year. The journey was made with an ox team. The party consisted of himself and wife, his son William and wife, and three other children, the youngest about five years of age. Arriving at Centerville, where Mr. Maxson had a few years before begun the settlement of that township, and leaving most of his family there, he and his son William and the lively girl Nancy, then nearly nine years of age, drove south six miles, having previously blazed the way through the unbroken forest, on January 1, 1809, to found a home and begin life anew in the wilderness. It was a great change from a mercantile life. On the ox-sled they had brought a kettle of coals the fire from which was probably kept for many years and kindled again on the hearth stones of many newly arriving settlers. Going to the neighbors to borrow fire was no uncommon thing in those days. The son William felled the first tree. They put up that day a log shanty, a lean-to, covered it with cotton cloth and there spent the night, having tied the oxen to trees and built seven fires about to keep off the wild beasts. The rest of the family came soon, and the next year his sons-in-law, William Gordon and Cephas Young, arrived, and a year and a half later his son, Charles Gary, and wife, also.

After making improvements for five years on this well located place, now the Isaac Weaver farm,\* Mr. Gary sold it for \$1,000 and moved on to the road west, a half mile farther north, to what is now called the Thomas farm.

\*This farm has since been sold to Benjamin Williams.



## The Gary Family

Here he built a two-story house and set out an orchard, perhaps the first one in town. His son-in-law, Mr. Young, lived on the same farm on the lower road.

Of course Mr. Gary had to keep open house for the new comers, and as he was very sociable and friendly, his home was somewhat of a hotel for a while. Born about thirty miles from Boston, living in the stormy times that preceded and followed the long struggle for liberty, himself a soldier in it, he had a fund of anecdotes, stories and reminiscences and withal business experience, fitting him for an agreeable entertainer.

How he became acquainted with the Gordons is not known. Mr. James Gordon, a Scotchman, came to this country as a British soldier, but afterwards joined the Continental army. In one of his genial banters with his friend, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Gary, alluding to Gordon, said to those about, "This is the man I took prisoner." "Well," Mr. Gordon replied, "my son captured two of Mr. Gary's daughters, so I guess we are about even." Just how much of the taking prisoner was warlike no one now living can say. Mr. Gordon said as he took his pension, "I came over to fight you Yankees and now you are paying me for it," and also, "I have held the stirrup many a time for Washington."

Mr. Gary surveyed what is now Rushford township and marked the center by embedding a grind-stone in the middle of Main Street a little below the High School grounds. Nearly opposite this point, in a cottage which is now the rear of the Morgan home, the early settler and his wife spent some of their later years till, too old and feeble for household duties, they were tenderly cared for in the home of their son-in-law, William Gordon.

Mrs. Gary, honored and respected, filled well her station, caring for her family and welcoming the new settlers.

## Rushford Families

Before her marriage she was Miss Esther Buckingham, daughter of Jedediah P. Buckingham of Lebanon, Connecticut, a man of large family and of name somewhat noted in that State. A letter to Rev. F. E. Woods from the war governor, William A. Buckingham, also born in Lebanon, states concerning "Gary-Buckingham" genealogy, "no doubt we are relatives, for I have known no person bearing my name, residing in this country, unless it be a family in Maryland, who is not a descendant of Thomas Buckingham, one of the first settlers and one of the 'seven pillars' of the church, in Milford, Connecticut."

Mr. and Mrs. Gary were people of refinement and rather genteel manners. He wore continental style of clothing (knee breeches with gold buckles), powdered hair and a wig for dress up. Mrs. Gary had silk and satin dresses. They were Presbyterians and had family prayer. Mrs. M. B. Champlin of Cuba when a young girl called on these her grandparents one morning and finding them at family prayer waited at the door till their devotions were over.

Mr. Gary was also a member of the Masonic fraternity, record of which is with Miss Ellen Gordon of Rushford.

Until their golden wedding anniversary and three years after, this worthy couple were permitted to journey together, then the beloved wife fell asleep, August 27, 1841, aged seventy-eight years, and Mr. Gary died three years later, August 17, 1844, aged eighty-seven years. On the morning of his departure he said, "I saw Esther last night and she was just as beautiful as when I married her." Their remains rest in Rushford cemetery. Seven children and about forty grandchildren survived them.

### COMMENDATORY

With due honor to his helpmeet, we may say of Mr. Gary that by his service to his country in the long and un-



William L. Gary and Wife

## Rushford Families

certain struggle of the Revolution; by beginning again when past fifty years of age bravely to battle with difficulties and regain a competence; by his service to the community in which he lived; by his love for his fellowmen and to God; by these things he made himself an honored pioneer in the founding of a well-famed town.

### DESCENDANTS

The children of the first settler were:

William, called Capt. Gary.

Esther, wife of Josephus Young.

Mira, first wife of William Gordon.

Charles.

Martha, second wife of William Gordon.

Nancy, wife of Ely Woods.

Caroline, wife of Oramel Griffin.

These all lived and died in Rushford, excepting Charles, who with his family embarked on a raft at Olean, went down the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers and settled in Rising Sun, Indiana. His eight children grew up to honorable estate; two of them were Methodist preachers in Kansas. Two of Enos Gary's sons-in-law, William Gordon and Oramel Griffin were prominent business men in Rushford. The latter earned his first hundred dollars by felling trees for a clearing. With this money he early opened a store in Rushford and continued in that business over twenty-five years, accumulating, it was supposed, \$100,000.

The daughter Nancy, by accompanying her father, Mr. Gary, on the first day of settlement, became thus the first white woman to stay in the town over night. On March 31, 1818, she was married to Ely Woods. For a wedding trip they drove with an ox team from Mr. Young's down to the present site of Rushford, where the people gathered



## The Swifts

to attend the raising of the first tavern, a log structure, at the present location of the village. To begin housekeeping they placed the furniture on an ox-cart and drove to the farm on which they both lived and died, having reared a family of eight children. A year after celebrating their golden wedding Mrs. Woods departed this life aged nearly seventy, Mr. Woods about ten years later aged nearly eighty-five. They were both earnest, religious people, he a class leader in the Methodist Episcopal Church nearly forty years.

Descendants of Eneas Gary who reside in town: Miss Ellen E. Gordon, Fred G. Gordon, Mrs. Verna Gordon Tarbell, Bertram Crocker, Fred H. Crocker, Nora B. Crocker Carrie D. Crocker, Mrs. Minnie Osborn Jagers, Albert Farwell and Dorrance Farwell.

## THE SWIFTS

H. J. W. G.

**M**OSES WARD of Cheshire, Ontario County, said in his reminiscences that when he was a boy he staid for a time with his sister, Mrs. Andrey Hawley, who lived on Oil Creek (Cuba was at first called Oil Creek). Speaking of the settlers who came in the summer of 1807, he mentions Mr. Swift, eight miles north. The Holland Purchase records show that the first man to take a contract for land in township five, range two, was Charles Swift, from Cazenovia, Madison County. In 1809 he was probably living on what was later called the English farm, on the Cuba road; his son Heman lived\* farther west on the same road. The late Porter Swift of Wisconsin said that his father, Heman,

\*The farm on which Heman lived is now owned by the Ack-erly Company, and joins the English farm.

## Rushford Families

came to Rushford "when the Indians were painted up and were going to kill the whites off," and that his father moved back to Cazenovia three times because he was afraid of the Indians. The children of Heman and Ann Swift were Harriet (Mrs. Charles White) born in 1806, Van Lansing, Heman and Porter. Harriet said that one afternoon when she and a woman sat visiting they saw a bear come down the road and go into the cellar. They went out and stopped up the window. When the men came home they shot the bear. The skin sold for forty dollars. Heman and Ann Swift both died in 1853. Ione, William, Charles and George VanDusen are the great-grandchildren of Heman Swift who live in Rushford.

Charles Swift was a Revolutionary soldier.\* His grandson, the late Porter Swift, thought he set out the first orchard in town. If he did not have the honor of being the first permanent settler he had the distinction of having the first horses and sleigh in the settlement. The whiffletrees were attached to the runners of the sleigh. Charles Swift kept a tavern. There was a great demand for taverns in Rushford because people were passing through to a new country or driving cattle or hauling lumber. Oats were a shilling a bushel, lodging a sixpence, meals a shilling, and whiskey sixteen cents a gallon.

Charles Swift, Jr., was elected to office at the first town meeting. March 18, 1817, he became one of the charter members of the Rushford Masonic Lodge, having previously belonged to the Angelica Lodge. He married Electa, daughter of the widow Butterfield, about 1820. In 1847 he sold his farm to Robert English and moved to Pennsylvania.

Jackson Swift, another son of Charles Swift, lived on

\*See list of Soldiers of Revolution.

## William Vaughan

the same road nearer the village. He moved to Wisconsin in 1842.

Mrs. Johanna Swift, wife of Charles Swift, in 1838 went to Missouri with many others from Rushford. She went ahead of the ox team and picked out the places to stop for dinner and to camp at night. Later she came back to Rushford. One Christmas she was in a sleigh with the Gillettes and Mrs. Amanda Baird on her way to the home of her grand-daughter, Mrs. Harriet White, where they were to spend the day. The horses got into a big snow drift near the English schoolhouse and the grandmother, although eighty-three years old, insisted on walking to the house, which was in sight. When she reached it she went onto the bed and by the time all were in the house she had gone to her long home.

## WILLIAM VAUGHAN

H. J. W. G.

**W**ILLIAM VAUGHAN, the grandfather of Chester Perry, Jay Vaughan, the Rev. Frank Himes, Mrs. Philo Taylor and Mrs. C. C. Gould, was brought up by a sailor. Since he suffered from fever and ague in Oneida County, in 1808 he took a contract for land in township five, range two, upon the Holland Purchase. In 1809, when he came, there were only three families in the township, those of Eneas Gary and Charles and Heman Swift. He boarded with Charles Swift and cleared ten acres of the land now owned by Jay Vaughan. In April, 1810, he brought his wife and five children to their new home, a log house with a stone fireplace.

## Rushford Families

No man in the settlement was so strong as he to climb upon the corner of a log cabin when it was being built and put the logs in place. Once when his neighbors were without food he killed a deer and thus saved them from starving. He was able to make plows and drags and was so quick and strong that he could get a bushel and a half of potatoes for a day's work when others received only a bushel. He used to tell of a race that took place when there was a neighborhood party. It was between oxen and horses over logs and against stumps. The oxen won. He was the first one in the settlement to capture a swarm of bees. Sawing off the part of the log containing the swarm, he carried it home and set it up in his yard, using it for a beehive a number of years. He built one of the first frame houses in town. He was eccentric, honest, and a reader of the Bible, although he made no profession of religion.

His children were Betsey (Mrs. Stewart, later Mrs. Joseph Dolph), William, David, Daniel, Laurana (Mrs. Randolph Himes), Abram, Julia (Mrs. Austin Perry), Henry and Charles. Charles was a drummer of unusual skill. He lived eighty-one years on the land taken up by his father. Five generations of Vaughans have lived on the same farm.

## ABEL BELKNAP

H. J. W. G.

ABEL BELKNAP first saw the light of day in Massachusetts the January before the battle of Concord. The latter part of 1809 he and his wife Clarissa Torry with four children set out for the Genesee country. Abel wished to remain at Rochester, but Clarissa said, "No."



## Abel Belknap

"When a woman will, she will,  
You may depend on't,  
But when she won't, she won't,  
And that's the end on't."

She didn't like the water; she wanted to settle near a spring, so they traveled till they came to the sulphur spring near the Cuba road, on the farm now owned by James Wilson, and there on the south side of the road they built their log house. January 20, 1810, there came to their home the first white child born in the settlement. They called her name Bethiah. Eight more children were born to them. All but two of the thirteen children lived to maturity. Sally (Mrs. John Bristol), born in 1828, was the youngest.

Once the family heard a frightful sound under the floor of the house. Polly tried to have the dogs go down, but they would not go. At last Ezra, a strong, strapping fellow, came home. Taking his gun and the dogs he went down and killed a large gray wolf, probably driven there by hunger. A man once came to look at Abel Belknap's oxen. "How much do you ask for them?" he said. "One hundred dollars," was the reply. The man started to go. "Hold on there," called Mr. Belknap, "I can be beat down half." One day when Mrs. Belknap was alone several Indians stopped and asked for something to eat. She generously shared with them her fresh bread and doughnuts. Then they wanted salt pork, but she said, "No, you can't have any." They insisted, brandished knives and threatened, but she stood her ground. Then one of the Indians said, "Me like you, you spunky."

In character Abel Belknap was of the Puritan type, upright, and strict and stern in his family. Novel-reading was one of the forbidden things. His daughter, Sally, bor-

## Rushford Families

rowed novels and read them secretly. By mistake she left one where her father found it. He read it and became so interested that he never afterward said anything against novel-reading. He knew his Bible from cover to cover. Mention a passage of Scripture and he could quickly turn to it. He was one of the first assessors and one of the first inspectors of schools in the town of Rushford. He lived to be eighty-one years of age, surviving his wife by only seven weeks.

His grandson, E. R. Belknap, son of Erastus, has done a commendable work for the prevention of cruelty to calves while they are being shipped to the city.

## THE GORDONS

H. J. W. G

JAMES GORDON, "the root of all Gordons," was born in Leeds, Perth County, Scotland, in March, 1752. His father's name was James and his mother's name was Kastorn. He came to America with the British forces under Burgoyne, but he afterwards joined the Continental army. He married Jerusha Tarbell, sister of Edward Tarbell. She was born in Groton, Massachusetts, September 25, 1753. The children of James and Jerusha Gordon were Thomas, Kastorn, James, Tarbel, William, John, Wilson and Samuel. Thomas, Kastorn and Samuel never lived in Rushford. James and Jerusha Gordon came to Rushford in 1815. The old Gordon farm in Cavendish, Vermont, was afterwards occupied by Joab and Isaac Eddy, relatives of Newbury Eddy who settled in Rushford. James Gordon died December 9, 1844. Jerusha, his wife, died March 8, 1834.



Jedediah Buckingham Gordon

## Rushford Families

James Gordon, Jr., was born in Mason, New Hampshire, October 30, 1783. January 10, 1808 he married Abigail Bowen, who was born in Woodstock, Connecticut. They came to Rushford from Cavendish, Vermont, in 1811, and settled on the farm now owned and occupied by their son Bowen. James and Abigail Gordon were the parents of eleven children, all born in Rushford. The seven who grew to maturity were Nancy (Mrs. Isaac Rowley), born September 14, 1811; Maria (Mrs. Eliab Benjamin); Fordyce, who married Sarah Smith; John D. Fletcher, who married Saphronia Adams; Mary Ann (Mrs. Baxter George); Laura (Mrs. John C. Nobles); Isaac Bowen, who married Malinda Rice of Sardinia; and Julia E. (Mrs. Tony Fletcher), who was born in 1834. Isaac Bowen of Rushford and Julie E. of Pony, Montana, are the only living children. Fordyce made his home in Cuba. The grandchildren of James and Abigail Gordon whose homes are in Rushford are James G. Benjamin; Frank and Lucy Gordon, children of Fletcher; Dean Gordon and Mary Gordon Wilmot, children of Bowen.

Tarbel Gordon was born in Mason, New Hampshire, January 21, 1785. His wife, Lucy Lawrence, was born April 12, 1783. In 1810 he came to Rushford where he cleared some land and built a log cabin, then he returned to Vermont, coming again to Rushford, with his family, in 1811. He settled on lot 29. His land joined that of his brother John on the south, and that of his brother William on the north. The children of Tarbel and Lucy Gordon were Laura (Mrs. David Foy), born Feb. 7, 1806; Louisa (Mrs. Calvin Davenport of Randolph); William, who married Lois Gardner; Simon, born May 11, 1811, who married Laura Griffin; Ely, who married Martha Thing and after her death her sister Emily; Adaline (Mrs. David Huntington of Na-



## The Gordons

poli) ; Myra (Mrs. Lyford Leavens) ; Elvira (Mrs. Harry Howe) ; Luthera (Mrs. Perry Corse) ; Salome (Mrs. Elijah Metcalf) ; and Cyrus, who married Orra Morris of Lyndon.

Tarbel Gordon "possessed a strong mind and a surprising clearness in opening and explaining Scripture." On the evening of February 20, 1845, Isaac Stone, who had purchased the William Gordon farm, called upon him and remained till nine o'clock. Their conversation was chiefly upon Christian purity, upon which Mr. Gordon talked with his usual cheerfulness and animation. It was startling the next day, when the word passed from mouth to mouth that "Tarbel Gordon is no more" The Tarbel Gordon farm remained in the family until June, 1898, when it was sold by Orra Gordon and her daughters to A. L. Ewell. It is now owned by Fred Baker whose daughter Ethel is a great-great-grandchild of Tarbel Gordon. The grandchildren of Tarbel and Lucy Gordon, now living in Rushford, are Mrs. Lucy Gordon Gant, daughter of William, Willis H. Leavens and Mrs. Flora Metcalf Thomas.

William Gordon was born in Mason, New Hampshire, October 7, 1787. He married in Vermont Mira, daughter of Eneas Gary. They came to Rushford about 1810\* and settled on the east road north of the present village, on the farm now owned by Romain Benjamin. Here June 12, 1810, was born Samuel, the first white male child born in Rushford. On the same farm September 7, 1812, Jedediah Buckingham was born; the mother died the following November, but the young child was tenderly cared for by a neighbor, Mrs. Samuel H. Morgan, who then lived near the brook on the crossroad that extends from Hard Scrabble to Pondonque. William Gordon afterwards married Martha, sister

\*William Gordon came to the township first in 1808 in company with Eneas Gary to look the land over.

## Rushford Families

of his first wife. She was the mother of Lorenzo Dow, who married Orrisa Rawson of Lyndon, Kastorn (Mrs. Avery Washburn), Stanbury, who married Julia Short, Stoddard, who married Harriet Jacobs of Portage, Salome (Mrs. Russell Bell), John Copeland, who married in Kansas, Mrs. Mary Nichols Sellows, whose early home was in New Hudson, New York, John Wesley, who married Louise C. Springer, Asbury, who remained single, and Tarbel, who married Elizabeth Morrow. Late in life William Gordon married Mrs. Laura Wilson Woods, widow of Daniel Woods.

He brought into Rushford the first bake-oven and the first cook-stove ever seen in the town. His home for many years was in Gordonville. Here, near the end of the road, about 1830, he built a carding-mill, to which in time was added dressing of home-made cloth, and finally weaving of cloth. One hundred yards of flannel and fullcloth were made daily. People came many miles to this mill, bringing their wool to exchange for cloth. In the spring of 1842, Avery Washburn entered into partnership in the woolen mill with the firm of W., S. & I. B. Gordon. The name of the firm was afterwards changed to Gordon & Washburn. In 1873 when the woolen mill burned, it was owned by J. B. Gordon & Son.\* East of the woolen mill, William Gordon built a sawmill. In 1836 southwest of his home, and across Caneadea Creek, he built a grist mill. At a later period, the name of the firm owning the grist mill was J. B. J. W. Gordon & Co. When it burned in 1883, it was owned by J. B. Gordon & Son.†

In politics William Gordon became an Abolitionist. He

\*Albert.

†Fred G.

## The Gordons

was for many years a prominent member and a useful local preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Church. In June, 1829, at the twentieth session of the Genesee Conference, at Perry, New York, he was ordained deacon. He was noted for his generosity; the needy, the unfortunate always found in William Gordon a friend. His home was on the corner near the bridge; across the road, farther east, in the first house lived his daughter Kastorn; Samuel lived just beyond in the house now owned by Mrs. Margaret Bullock; in the next house but one lived Jedediah; on the main road not far from the corner Stanbury built his home; and farther north in the house now owned by Frank Fuller, Lorenzo lived. Of William Gordon's eleven children only Jedediah, Stanbury and Wesley remained in Rushford; the others sought their fortunes in the West, Samuel, Salome and Lorenzo in Illinois, and Kastorn, Stoddard, Copeland, Asbury and Tarbel in Kansas.

William Gordon died at his home in Gordonville, April 5, 1870.

When Jedediah was a young man, people would say to him, "Jed, why don't you get married?" He would reply, "I am afraid if I married in Rushford I would marry one of my relatives." Attending the Baptist Church one Sunday, while at school in Middlebury, he was strangely drawn to one of the alto singers in the choir. He afterwards sought an introduction to the young woman, Miss Juliette Hovey, who, February 21, 1839, became his wife. Sometime after their marriage, when Mrs. Gordon was visiting her relatives, one of them said to her, "Juliette, what is your husband's name?" "Jedediah Buckingham Gordon," was the reply. "Where did he get the name Buckingham?" said her relative. Tracing back they found that the great-grandmothers of J. B. and his wife were twin sisters.

## Rushford Families

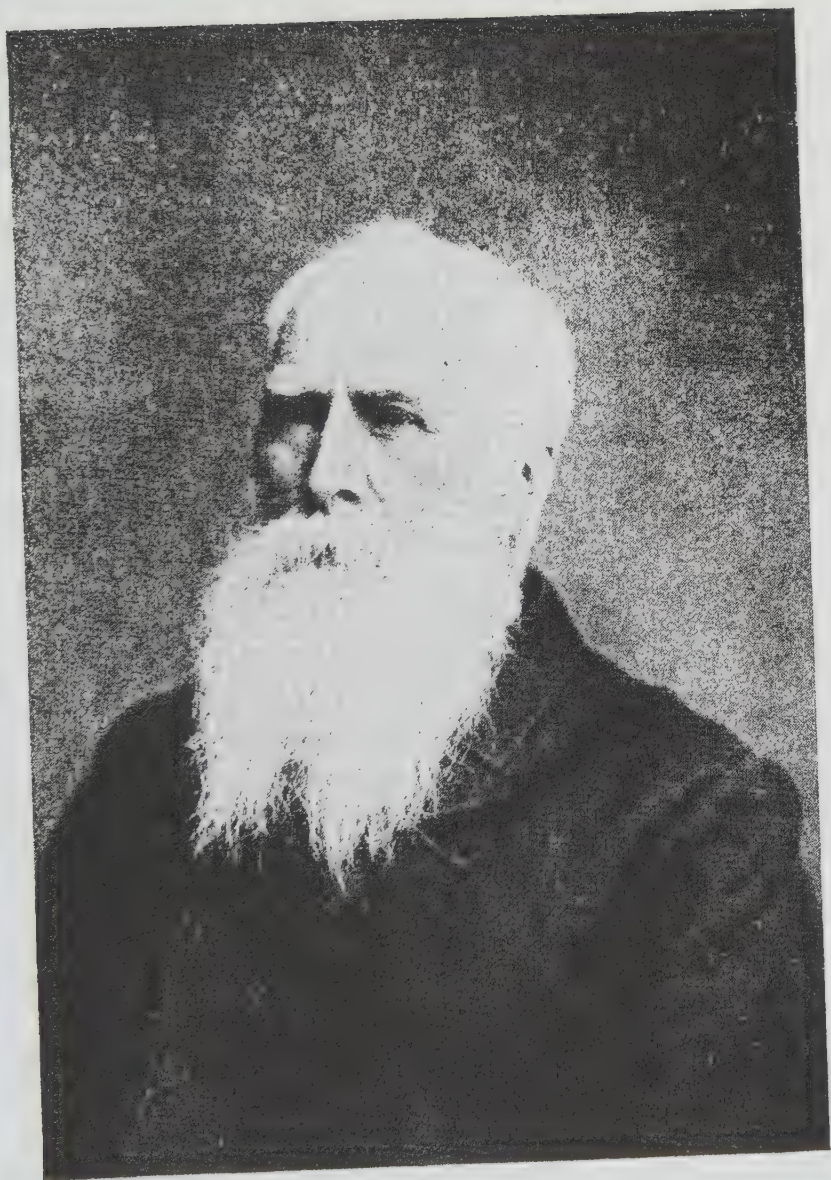
In the presence of J. B. Gordon, a man was once relating something removed from the truth. Turning to Mr. Gordon he said, "You remember, don't you, Mr. Gordon?" "Some things I remember," he replied, "but I don't remember things that never happened." He was not a member of the Methodist Church, but the following little incident will show his attitude. The Rev. W. B. Wagoner said that one hot Sunday when he was preaching in Rushford, the congregation seemed listless, even J. B. Gordon did not give his usual attention, so he resolved to repeat the sermon at some future time. After the repetition, Mr. Gordon came to him and said, "I am glad you preached that sermon again. I heard it this time."

Erect in stature, perhaps standing with his thumbs in the armholes of his vest, his hair slightly gray, his face smooth, his countenance lighted up with interest in affairs, a man whom everybody knew and whom everybody respected—such was J. B. Gordon when he had passed fourscore.

Ellen E. Gordon, Fred G. Gordon and Mrs. Verna Gordon Tarbell are the only grandchildren of William Gordon who live in Rushford.

John Gordon was born in Cavendish, Windsor County, Vermont, August 4, 1789. In January 24, 1810, he married Harmony, daughter of Luther L. Woodworth. Early the next year they started for the Holland Purchase where they settled in township five, range two, on the southern part of lot twenty-nine. Here were born James, who married Polly Bresler; Luther, who married Florilla Cooley of Attica, New York, April 24, 1848; Matilda (Mrs. George Green), who later lived in Fairport, Monroe County; Walter, who remained single; and Wilson L., whose first





Daniel Clark Woods

## Rushford Families

wife was Marcia Remington. John Gordon was a farmer, a brickmaker and a lumberman. Before 1830 he and his brothers, William and Wilson, owned a sawmill at Kelloggville. He was the most unconventional of men; his dress and his pleasures were such as pleased him best. In the forties his sons, James and Luther, were among Rushford's hustling business men. They were afterwards engaged in the lumber business in Brockport; the partnership continued till 1870. Walter became a Methodist minister. Wilson L. of Topeka, Kansas, who was born in 1828, is the only living child. John Gordon died February 12, 1842. The land on which he settled is owned by his grand-daughter, Mrs. Alice Gordon Hooker of Fairport.

Wilson Gordon was born in Cavendish, Vermont, June 4, 1794. He came to Rushford, March 20, 1812, and took up land below East Rushford on Caneadea Creek. After his land was partly cleared, he married Lydia Pratt, who was the mother of his four children:—Sophia (Mrs. William Merryfield), born September 23, 1818; Jerusha (Mrs. Newell McCall); Thomas L., who married Mary Lewis; and Orson, who never married. Thomas and Orson died of fever in January, 1864, followed by Mary, wife of Thomas, in February. Lydia Pratt Gordon died in 1859. Wilson Gordon's second wife was Paulina Walker; after her death he married Mrs. Elizabeth Ward. Mr. Gordon, beside being a farmer, was a lumberman, having a sawmill on his farm. The land on which he settled is now owned by Mrs. Fannie McCall whose children are great-grandchildren of Wilson Gordon. Wilson Gordon died February 27, 1879.

Of the five Gordon brothers who settled in Rushford, all but John were Methodists, and many were the efforts to get John converted. In 1834 "the Gordons were many and

## Josephus Young

strong" in the Methodist Church. Though there were a number of people in the church who were opposed to the use of musical instruments in worship, the bass viol was introduced into the choir. When James Gordon heard the music, he turned around and looking at the choir, said, "Ahem, fiddlin' and no dancin'." Tarbel Gordon went out during the performance, but returned to hear the sermon. William Gordon said, "We'll fiddle and sing the twentieth hymn." The bass viol disappeared from the choir.

The Gordons did much in the development of the town of Rushford.

## JOSEPHUS YOUNG

H. J. W. G.

OCTOBER 13, 1808, Esther, daughter of Eneas Gary, became the wife of Josephus Young. She was seventeen years of age and he twenty-six at the time of their marriage. In 1810 they left Weathersfield, Windsor County, Vermont, with an ox team and in twenty-two days reached Rushford. To them were born twelve children. Winthrop G., the oldest, was born in 1809. The others who survived infancy were William P., Esther (Mrs. John G. Osborn), Harriet (Mrs. Albert W. Bannister), and Stephen.

Josephus Young signed his name Joseph, but he was called Cephas. He located on lot thirty-one, north of Eneas Gary's, but later owned land on the Caneadea Road, joining that of Luther Woodworth, and kept tavern in a building long since burned, that stood on the west side of Upper Street on land now owned by Mrs. James G. Benjamin. According to all reports it was well patronized. Five times town meeting was held in this tavern, the first in 1818, the

## Rushford Families

last in 1828. December 1, 1819, he joined the Rushford Masonic Lodge. He was a quiet, peaceable man, living to be sixty-five years of age. His wife Esther lived to be over ninety.

His sons were all farmers. Winthrop, who married the widow Snow, served his town two years as Supervisor. Stephen, who never married, died when only thirty-three years of age; he was the first toll-gate keeper at the Rushford end of the plank road. The toll-gate stood near the site of Mrs. Luther Thomas's house. The children of Josephus and Esther Young passed their lives in Rushford, with the exception of Mrs. Bannister, who after living some years in Churchville, New York, moved to Pasadena, California. The daughter, Esther, died when eighty-one years of age. We have never ceased to miss her sitting by the window or her friendly greeting when we entered. Mrs. Minnie Osborn Jagers is the only descendant of Josephus Young who lives in Rushford.

## THE WOODSES

Clarissa Woods Calkins

TEN sons and daughters of Daniel and Ruhama (Ely) Woods, all born in Windsor, Vermont, came to Rushford, New York, when the country was new. Clarissa was born in 1783; Sally, who remained in Vermont, in 1785; Lucy, in 1788; Laura, in 1791; Daniel, in 1792; Ely, in 1794; Riley, in 1798; William, in 1800; Maila, in 1802; Albert, in 1804; and Louisa, in 1806.

Daniel Woods married Laura Wilson in Rushford, February, 1810. His first frame house was north of the entrance to the Podonque Cemetery. No buildings are there





Mrs. Ely (Nancy Gary) Woods

The first white woman who stayed in the town  
of Rushford, N. Y., over night.

## Rushford Families

now. In later years he built the first house north of the Podonque cheese factory. His farm lay each side of the road toward Centerville and the road toward Hume. Uncle Daniel was a host spiritually. He could sing the sweetest and pray the loudest, and like Daniel of old he was willing the whole world should hear him. His children were Lucia Spencer (Mrs. O. D. Benjamin), Myra Ann (Mrs. Thomas Eaton), Leverett Ethelbert, who married Ann Hill, Rebecca Ruhama (Mrs. Randolph Heald), Sarah Louisa (Mrs. John Knaggs), Lucy Lovett (Mrs. Edward Hill), Daniel Clark, who married Armena Peck, Laura Cornelia (Mrs. Edwin Weaver), Milton McCall, who married Emily Fuller, and Mary Jane (Mrs. Frank Warren). All of his children were born in Rushford except Rebecca R. and Sarah L. who were born in Caneadea.

Ely Woods taught school in Caneadea. When the McCalls built their grist mill at East Rushford, he assisted in building the dam which in part remains. He bought a farm just north of his brother Daniel's, and his first frame house was a little farther north than Daniel's, near where the old butternut tree stands. He later built a house on the Hume road, as his farm crossed both roads. His house was the first house south of the schoolhouse. He and his brother, Daniel, with others, built a sawmill in the gorge just east of his second house, and sawed logs there for some years. He married Nancy Gary, the first white woman who came to Rushford, with whom he lived in harmony over fifty years. He was class leader for many years and kept a record of those who attended the class meetings of the Rushford Methodist Church, Sunday noons. He also held a prayer meeting in the schoolhouse Sunday evenings, which was well attended for years. He was gifted in prayer and sang the good old hymns in such a way as to convince the

## The Woodses

hearers that they were the sentiment of his heart. His wife was there too and sang the high tenor which sounded so well to me when a child. She was present at the Methodist Church without missing a Sunday for eighteen years. Their children were William Watson, who married Harriett B. Drury and after her death Eleanor Blanchard; Caroline Gary (Mrs. John Persons); Maila (Mrs. John DuBell); Percy (Mrs. Asa Worden); Esther, who married Gilbert Richardson and after his death John W. Eldridge; Catharine (Mrs. William H. Shaw); Wilbur Fisk, who married Elizabeth Claus and after her death Emma Claus; and Frank Eneas, who married Mary M. Huff.

Laura Woods married David Board.

Riley Woods married in Chester, Vermont, November 1, 1822, Abigail, daughter of John and Esther Heald. His home was close by the entrance to the Podonque Cemetery. His children were Daniel Heald, who married Elvira Lamberson; Albert, who married Polly Lamberson; William Riley, who married Mary F. Champlin; Fanny Savage; Mary Caroline (Mrs. Joseph Vinson); John Randolph; Edwin Skeels; Ann Eliza (Mrs. Stephen Tobias); and George, who married Caroline Gardner of Illinois.

William Woods married in Weathersfield, Vermont, June, 1824, Rosannah, daughter of Richard and Marian Farwell. After coming to Rushford they settled on the farm south of Calvin Leavens' and east of Mr. Board's. Their house was near the corner where the crossroad joins the East Rushford road. To them were born in Rushford six children: Marcia (Mrs. John A. Wells); Marian (Mrs. Alonzo Older); Richard, who married, in Moscow, Phebe E. Grant; Maria (Mrs. Dalzell); John; and William Wilson, who married, in Hinsdale, Emily D. Searle. After the death

## Rushford Families

of his first wife, William Woods married, in 1853, Philena Peck. He died in Franklinville.

Albert Woods married in Windsor, Vermont, April 2, 1825, Betsey, daughter of Ebenezer Kendall. Leaving his wife with her parents he came to Rushford; she died before his return. He married in Rushford Emily Lyman, sister of the late Alonzo Lyman. They had one child, Wiley. Albert Woods afterwards married, in Rochester, Abigail McCord Hagaman. Their children, born in Somerset, Michigan, were Laura Ruhama and Emma Phebe (Mrs. J. De Con). Albert Woods died in Quincy, Michigan.

Lucy Woods married Calvin Leavens.

Maila and Louisa Woods were unmarried sisters who came from Vermont with Mr. and Mrs. Leavens. Maila became a first-class teacher and founded a school in Kalamazoo, Michigan. After she was too old to teach she came back to Rushford and died at the home of her nephew, Clark Woods. Louisa was a tailoress and for years owned and occupied the first house north of Frank Fuller's in Gordonville.

In 1804 Clarissa married Thomas Richards in Windsor, Vermont. Their children were Edward Palmer, who, in Broome County, married Betsey Launder; Hallam, who in Monroe County, married Catharine Wilcox; James Madison, who married Hester Ann Bannister; Mary Palmer (Mrs. C. G. Leavens); Sarah Gardner, unmarried; Lucy Leavens (Mrs. Albert Gallatin); and Clarissa Woods (Mrs. Oscar Board). The children were all born in Windsor, Vermont, except Lucy L. and Clarissa W., who were born in Lisle, Broome County, New York, where Thomas Richards died in 1822. After his death Mrs. Richards moved to Rushford and occupied a house on the corner opposite her

## The Woodses

brother William's, not far north of Jacob Van Dusen's. Clarissa Richards died in Farmersville, New York.

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Daniel Woods was a local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1837 he was elected deacon. Conable's History of the Genesee Conference describes him as a large, fine-appearing, good man.

Only two of his children, Mrs. Cornelia Weaver, who lives in Podonque, and Mr. Clark Woods, who lives in Rushford village, are now living. Mr. Clark Woods, although past four-score years, is still (1910) able to start the hymns in prayer meeting.

Of the ten Woods brothers and sisters who settled in Rushford, Clarissa, Lucy, Laura, Daniel and Riley have descendants in the town. Frank Board is a grandchild of Clarissa and Laura; W. H. Leavens is a grandchild of Lucy; Mrs. Sylvia Williams, daughter of Lucia, Mrs. Myra Litchard, daughter of Leverett, John R. Heald, son of Rebecca, Mrs. Ella Claus, Mrs. Jennie Gordon, Jason, Grant and Wilson Woods, children of Clark, Charles Weaver, son of Cornelia, and D. W. and Newman Woods, sons of Milton, are grandchildren of Daniel Woods; and Frank Woods, son of Albert, is a grandson of Riley.

When the Woodses came to Rushford, they brought with them the gift of music and it is here yet, even to the fourth generation. Through all the years it has been a cheer and an uplift to a multitude of people. It has been heard in the church choir, the prayer meeting, the class meeting, the social gathering, the public entertainments, the orchestra and the band.





Marena Woods

## Abraham J. Lyon

Joshua and Rebecca (Spencer) Wilson, whose daughter married Daniel Woods, came to Rushford from Windsor, Vermont, in 1810. Their three sons, Simon, Freeman S., and Lewis, afterwards settled in Caneadea.

### ABRAHAM J. LYON

H. J. W. G.

**A**BRAMHAM J. LYON, one of eleven children, was born in Wallingford, Connecticut, in 1789. His wife, Mary (Pratt) Lyon, whom he familiarly called Polly, was born in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1792. They came to Rushford from Nelson, Madison County, about 1810, and settled on lot thirty-five, on a farm which until recently has been owned by some member of the Lyon family. Their coming to the uplands was due to the prevalence of fever and ague on the Genesee flats. Their first home was a bark shanty, their second a log cabin, and their third a frame house. On this farm four children were born to them, Ebenezer P., Eliza A. (Mrs. Orrin Phelps), Emeline (Mrs. J. Nelson Kingsbury), and Merritt.

April 24, 1818, Abraham J. Lyon was appointed Captain of a battalion of infantry in the County of Allegany "whereof George P. Ketchum, Esquire, was Major Commandant." The appointment was made by "DeWitt Clinton, Esquire, Governor of New York State, General Commander-in-Chief of all the Militia, with the advice and consent of the Council of Appointment at our City of Albany." Mr. Lyon was a pettifogger or lawyer. His judgment must have been good as his services were in frequent demand in different parts of the county. He held the office of Justice of the Peace more than thirty years. February

## Rushford Families

18, 1840, the Senate having consented, William H. Seward, Governor of New York State, appointed Abraham J. Lyon "Judge of the County Courts of the County of Allegany, in the place of John Collins, whose term of office would expire on the eighteenth day of March next." After this appointment he was usually spoken of as "Judge" Lyon.

When he was called to marry a couple, his daughter Emeline would sometimes accompany him, riding behind him on the same horse. The marriage fee would be, perhaps, a pig. Once, when intending to be absent from home, he hired a man to break flax for him. When he returned he said to the man, whom he had boarded, "Would you be willing to take for pay all the flax you have broke?" He replied, "I would if you would give me enough leather for a pair of boot tops, besides." It is said that there is now a general desire for an easy job with big pay, but there were traces of it in the good old times "when people hadn't learned to cheat." Once when Abraham J. Lyon was trying a law suit the counsel for the plaintiff said that Mr. Lyon, his opponent, had been to his house and begged for something to eat and cried. "Yes," said Mr. Lyon, "I did go to his house and beg for something to eat, and I did cry, and you would have cried too if you had seen what I got."

In a letter dated February 27, 1838, written by Abraham J. Lyon to his daughter Eliza, then in Far West, Caldwell County, Missouri, one may read the words, "I have settled in two new counties. I know all about it. People set much more by each other than they do in an old country and take more comfort." He was sunny in disposition and wanted everybody to have a "good time." When his daughter would correct her child he would say, "Sis, I wouldn't quarrel with a little child." He doted on circuses and enjoyed going to them with his grandchildren. After his daughter

## Thomas Pratt

was converted she refused to let her little girl go to the circus. Being displeased, he said, "Sis, what a religion, to vent it on a little child!" He was so accommodating that he would unhitch from a drag to lend it to a neighbor. Noted for his generosity, he said a man was to blame for nothing but being stingy.

The late Mrs. Mary Ann Charles of Cuba resembled her grandfather, Abraham J. Lyon. Mrs. J. G. Benjamin and Martin and Abraham J. Lyon are his grandchildren who reside in Rushford. Abram Benjamin is his latest namesake.

## THOMAS PRATT

H. J. W. G.

**T**HOMAS PRATT, better known as "Uncle Tom," came to Rushford from Madison County when about sixteen years of age. He settled on the land now owned by Hosea B. Ackerly. This and the land now owned by Drew M. Seeley had been granted by the Holland Land Company to Ebenezer Lyon. He was drowned while returning to Madison County, so the land was taken by his brother, Abraham J. Lyon, and part of it made over to Thomas Pratt. He cleared nearly all of his farm alone, taking corn meal pudding with him to the woods. At noon he would listen for the cow bell, milk the cow, and have warm milk and cold pudding for dinner.

Once when his boon companion lay dead drunk on the floor, Uncle Tom, dancing the pigeonwing around him with a broad-axe in his hand, said he was measuring him for a coffin. But a change came. Mr. and Mrs. Thirds lost a young child to whom he was much attached. It seemed to

## Rushford Families

him as if he could not endure it. He jumped onto a horse and rode for miles. While riding the thought came to him that he ought to get ready to meet the child; this led to his conversion. He became a Freewill Baptist preacher,\* working on his farm during the week and preaching Sundays. He had a maiden sister who kept house for him. She needed help and Sally Herrick from the "River" came. The bachelor of fifty became enamored and Thomas Pratt and Sally Herrick were made one, much to the discomfiture of the sister. It was "Uncle Tom's" ambition to be come worth ten thousand dollars. By labor and economy he surpassed his goal and accumulated quite a property for the time.

At the Semi-Centennial he spoke with so much power that people today speak in praise of his address. Everyone was listening so intently you could have heard a pin drop. People were so moved that tears streamed down their faces.

When old and feeble his housekeeper thought he ought to have some stimulant, but he said, "Ma'tha, Ma'tha, you don't know the blood," and refused to have it. He died in 1873 in the seventy-ninth year of his age. Mrs. Abraham J. Lyon, Mrs. Wilson Gordon and Mrs. Oliver Cromwell Bennett were his sisters and Morton Pratt was his brother. His only child, George Pratt, is living in Lowellville, Ohio.

## THE BENNETTS

Allan H. Gilbert

OLIVER CROMWELL BENNETT came to Rushford in 1812. He passed by the flats to escape the frosts and settled near what is now the site of the house of Charles

\*He was the first pastor of the Freewill Baptist Church at Rawson.



## The Bennetts

Baker. Though he was born in Follet, Vermont, and had lived in Connecticut he came to Rushford from Cayuga County, New York. When a Revolutionary soldier he was present at the execution of Major Andre. The noble bearing of that unfortunate English officer so moved young Bennett, then twenty years old, that he named his second son, born in 1788, Andre.

Cromwell Bennett had studied medicine in his youth but he became tired of the human family and practiced veterinary medicine. The first sawmill on Rush Creek was built by Cromwell Bennett, who spent all one summer going to Vermont after the mill irons. In pioneer days cows wore bells and ran in common. Cromwell Bennett once paid the "White Woman" at Gardeau three dollars for taking care of one of his that had strayed.

One of those elected to office at the first town meeting in Rushford was Cromwell Bennett. Though a Democrat he was elected Supervisor at the second town meeting and was twice re-elected. More than once he held three town offices at the same time. He was also Justice of the Peace as early as 1820, when Justices were not elected at town meetings. In 1818 he was one of three judges in the county courts in Allegany County. On April 8, 1817, Cromwell Bennett was one of the five who were the first initiated by the Rushford Masonic Lodge. His third wife, Zeruah Pratt,\* mother of four of his fourteen children, he married in Allegany County. Seventy-five years ago he closed his eyes to earthly things and now lies buried in Lyman Barber's meadow, not far from his pioneer home.

In the year 1811 Andre Bennett, the sixth man to take up land in Rushford, drove his ox team from Cayuga

\*Formerly wife of Wm. Thirds.

## Rushford Families

County and settled on Taylor Hill, at the Six Corners.\* Andre, who was twenty-three years old at the time, brought with him his wife, Rachel Orcutt Bennett, and their daughter, Sophronia, born in Cayuga County the year before.

When the War of 1812 broke out, he enlisted and went north, leaving his wife and her child alone in the woods. On the night of September 10, 1813, Rachel Bennett in her anxiety for her husband paced the floor all night, for that day she had heard the cannonading of the battle of Lake Erie. But Andre Bennett's danger was not from the British, for he was sick of a fever so severe that he crawled to the water's edge to cool himself. While her husband was away in the army, Rachel went through the woods to the home of William Vaughan where her son, Bushnell, was born.

Andre Bennett was well read, especially in history. One might infer something concerning his religious belief from his occasional attendance at the Universalist Church. His daughter Sophia (Mrs. Nelson Hammond) said that when in her childhood she came home from meeting terrified by descriptions of hell, Daddy comforted her by telling her that there was no such thing as a lake of fire. One of his sons, Elhanan Winchester, born in 1823, was named after a Universalist preacher well known in New England. This son† and another, Charles P., born in 1820, are still living. After the death of his youngest daughter, Jeanette, he and his wife adopted Aseneth, daughter of John Orcutt. Andre Bennett was independent in thought and life, not disturbed by the fashions of the world. If he wanted to wear a buckskin vest with ten-cent silver pieces for buttons, he did it. He never forgot an offense or a kindness.

\*Formerly six roads met at the Six Corners. One was given up years ago. Another has recently been abandoned.

†Died July 9, 1909.

## The Bennetts

The following story of an incident at general training which has been handed down in the family, is given as follows in the manuscript of Moses Ward:

"We were warned to appear on the Swift place, two miles south of where the village of Rushford now stands. My brother Salmon wished me to go and fill his place. The day came; I took his rifle and went. It was eight miles that I had to go. Soon after I got there we were called to fall into line. As soon as the line was formed the general officers rode along the line before us. A man at my right hand—the second man from me—said, 'There comes Kennedy.' He said that he was a soldier under the man on the lines in the war that had just passed, and had been shamefully abused by him; and that he would make him confess before he left the ground, if it cost him his life. I looked at the man that was speaking, and thought he meant what he said. He was a man, I should say, that would weigh two hundred, of a dark complexion and stout-built, and his eyes looked terrific. While he was speaking it was ordered to pay attention to the call of the roll, and all was silent. the roll was called and we were ordered to file off in platoons and were soon marched out into the field. Thence we were ordered back to where we were formed in the morning. We were ordered to form a hollow square. It was soon done, and the officers were in the center. The man at my right hand, that had spoken so earnestly in the morning, said to the man between me and him, 'Take my gun.' He took it. I asked him who he was. He said that the man's name was Andre Bennett. Bennett went with a quick step up to the officer and said, 'Do you know me?' I heard no more; they talked together, I should say about a minute, and then Bennett stepped back a little distance. The officer took off his hat and called the attention of all, and said he was an officer

## Rushford Families

on the lines, and that Mr. Bennett, the man that stood before him was a soldier under him, and he had not treated him as an officer should but had abused him—‘and in the presence of this assembly I ask his forgiveness.’ Mr. Bennett bowed and returned to his place in the ranks.” (The foregoing extract was taken with slight alterations from “History of Allegany County, New York,” 1879.)

Andre Bennett was younger at the time of his death than many of the early settlers but older than John Gordon of Matthew P. Cady. His tombstone in the West Cemetery bears the inscription, “Andre Bennett, died March 19, 1851, aged 63 years.”

Reuben Bennett, the oldest son of Cromwell Bennett, was born at the foot of Rattlesnake Hill, near Canterbury, Connecticut. He came from Cayuga County in 1812 and settled on the farm later owned by Thomas Baker.

A rail fence which he built in front of his house is still in use, though the house has long since disappeared. After browsing thirteen winters on Rush Creek, he moved to Mount Monroe where he built a log cabin near the present home of his son, Milton Bennett. Here Milton was born and rocked in a sap trough. Charles Strong, grandson of Reuben Bennett’s son Oliver, lives on the farm of his grandfather. Although his father and his brother Andre were Democrats, Reuben was a Whig. He was elected Inspector of Schools at Rushford’s first town meeting. Early in June in 1859, one severe frost was followed by another a week later. When others with lack of heart were planting again, Reuben Bennett went off fishing.

In 1820 he ploughed up a Spanish dollar bearing the date 1805. Milton Bennett has been keeping it for a marriage fee, but the time to use it has not yet come. Still he

## Samson Hardy

has not been completely deprived of one of the advantages of matrimony, that of laying things onto a wife. One day when a peddler called on this bachelor, Milton said he would ask his wife, who was down cellar, to come up. Stepping to the cellar door he called several times. Then turning to the peddler he said, "She don't want anything, she won't come up."

In the year 1852, the inhabitants of Rushford were alarmed by the screeching of a panther. Uncle Tom Pratt went out and called, "Bos, bos." The people who went out with their guns heard the sound first in one place, then in another. One man said he was not afraid because it did not make any tracks. It was finally discovered that the panther was nothing but a thin, tapering piece of board with beveled edges, tied by a three-foot string to a pole. When this was whirled rapidly, then drawn through the air, it made an unearthly sound. The person having it would then run to another place. One night the runner mistook the width of a stream and did not land on the opposite bank as he expected. Only one person in town was angry over the joke which was perpetrated by two grandsons of Oliver Cromwell Bennett.

## SAMSON HARDY

H. J. W. G.

**I**N 1811, Samson Hardy and his wife, Mary Spaulding, with their nine children came to Rushford from Cavendish, Vermont. The children, all born in Cavendish, were Polly (Mrs. Samuel Upham), born in 1787; Rachel (Mrs. Blakesley); Lucy (Mrs. Matthew P. Cady); Hannah (Mrs. Ezra Nott); Lucinda (Mrs. Dutton); Stephen, born in



## Rushford Families

1797; Samson, born in 1799; Betsey (Mrs. M. LaFayette Ely); and Rebecca (Mrs. Phillips). Mr. Hardy bought of the Holland Land Company two hundred acres, at two dollars and twenty-five cents an acre, on lot thirty-seven, which corners in the center of the town. The Baptist Church stands on what was a part of his land. Samson Hardy kept tavern on what is now the south corner of Lewellen and Buffalo Streets. He, also, owned and ran a distillery. In his tavern the second town meeting was held; here, also, in September, 1820, was held a meeting of the Baptist Church. Mrs. Mary Hardy was a member of a Baptist Church in Chester, Vermont.

Samson Hardy is one of the soldiers of the War of the Revolution, buried in Rushford. His tombstone in the First Burying Ground is an ornamental flagstone with this inscription—"In memory of Samson Hardy who died Nov. 29th, 1831, A.E. 77 years & 11 months.

Behold and see, as you pass by;

As you are now, so once was I.

As I am now, so you must be.

Prepare for death and follow me."

Stephen Hardy lived at Hardy's Corners; and the place still bears his name.

Samson Hardy, Jr., in 1823 married Saphronia Wright from Westford, Massachusetts. At the time of her marriage she was living in Rushford with a sister, Mrs. John Adams, who was a neighbor of the Hardys. The children of Samson and Saphronia Hardy were Rolon, Susan, Arthur, born in 1827, Maria (Mrs. Andrew Kimball), Lucy (Mrs. D. C. Butts), Webster, born in 1832, Saphronia (1 Mrs. H. A. Kimball, 2 Mrs. D. D. Persons), Asa W., born in 1837, Martha (Mrs. A. H. Claus), and Mary. "As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man, so are children of

## The Bannisters

the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them." In 1836, when Elder Absalom Miner was pastor, Samson and Saphronia Hardy were received into the Baptist Church. Samson Hardy, Jr., was usually spoken of as Col. Hardy since he had held the office of colonel in the militia. During the administration of James Buchanan he was postmaster in Rushford.

Arthur, Webster and Asa all settled on farms in Rushford. Mrs. A. H. Claus, who resides in Rushford village, is the only one living of the ten children. L. E. Hardy and Grace Claus Taylor are the grandchildren of Col. Samson Hardy who reside in town.

The Hardys have always added much to the musical life of the town. They have been found in the band, the church choirs, the orchestra, in vocal quartets and as organists of different organizations.

NOTE—Marquis La Fayette Ely, born in West Windsor, Vt, was the son of Abishai Ely ("Uncle Bish Ely") and the grandfather of Mrs. Blanche Bixby Mulliken.

## THE BANNISTERS

### A. W. Bannister

**M**Y grandfather, Silas Bannister, saw some service in the War of the Revolution, as attested by the capture of an English account book, bound in rawhide and stamped with English coat of arms. It was opened by Major Gordon, July 20, 1776, in command of a company of "artificers" building sheds for military stores at St. John's and Chamblis. It has been in my possession for the past half century, and has in it this obituary written by his son, Warren: "Silas Bannister, a friend of Literature and Sci-

## Rushford Families

ence, a believer in Christian Theology and Gospel Ethics. Died in peace April 29, 1827—Aged 75 years.”

The home of Silas and Thankful Ely Bannister at Windsor, Vermont, was the native home of six sons and six daughters, all of whom lived to mature age. The home had a local reputation as the “Methodist Tavern”—a sort of headquarters or resting place for circuit riders in the early days of Methodism. One of the sons, Warren, joined the troop and won something of name and fame in that line. Tradition says he planted a grindstone at the center of the town of Rushford, which, although not a conspicuous landmark, may still be in place.

His brother Roderick made a long mark, illustrating a mode of travel a century ago, in driving a pair of steers and sled from Windsor to Rushford in the winter of 1812. He cleared up a farm on the west road just at the outskirts of the present village; the land in later years was owned by Israel Thompson. Pliny and Wayne also joined the colony. Wayne and Warren’s wife were among the first burials in the west side cemetery. Roderick married Lydia Place in 1819, and later he and Pliny owned mills at the Gorge of Caneadea Creek where they lived neighbors for a generation. There was my boyhood home. I do not remember the incident, but tradition says my father, Roderick, took me to the kitchen to show me to the hired man December 1, 1825. My only married sister, Mrs. Jonathan Charles, was born in Rushford in 1820.

We reverently cherish the memory of that noble band who endured the privations and hardships incident to pioneer life; although, no doubt, there was compensating novelty in the simple life, and a sustaining enthusiasm in building homes in a wilderness surrounded by wild beasts and roaming bands of Indians; but I must leave to abler

## The Bannisters

pens than mine the portrayal of those sturdy virtues that have left their impress upon the intellectual, moral and spiritual life, not only of Rushford but of Western New York.

### THE BANNISTERS

Amelia Bannister De Berczy

WINDSOR, Vermont, noted for its staunch patriotism and resolute citizens, became interested in the inducements the Holland Purchase Company held out to settlers to buy their lands in Western New York, and their young men who had grown to manhood sharing the hardships and industry of their parents embraced the plan as a desirable method of getting lands and homes of their own. So they emigrated, in some instances many members of the same family. Among the many I will mention the Bannisters, Woodses, Elvs, Hapgoods and Benjamins. They called their settlement Rushford, but it was an undivided portion of Caneadea. Pliny Bannister emigrated to the settlement in 1811, Roderick Bannister in 1812, and Wayne Bannister in 1813. Warren Bannister, a traveling preacher in the Methodist Church, brought his family, consisting of wife and two children and sister-in-law, Miss Lydia Place, to Rushford. Pliny Bannister took up a plot of land and as the brothers came they labored together on the new farm. Roderick Bannister married Miss Lydia Place and lived in Rushford and vicinity. His wife died in Rushford in 1850. He lived a number of years at Churchville, New York, where he died, but he was buried in Rushford. His children, Rowena and Albert, survived him. Miss Rowena Bannister married Mr. J. Charles of Caneadea and moved to Churchville and from there to Fort Scott, Kansas. Both

## Rushford Families

Mr. and Mrs. Charles died in 1903. Mr. Albert Bannister resides in Pasadena, California. Pliny Bannister was born in West Windsor, Vermont, February 5, 1790. Following the custom of the days he worked on the farm with his father. His fondness for books led him to teaching school. His first certificate, signed by the committee, Beaumont Parks and Bancroft Fowler, ministers of the Gospel, is dated Windsor, Vermont, September 20, 1809. Another is dated Bromfield, Massachusetts, December 6, 1809, signed by order of committee, Warren Fay, minister of Gospel. He taught two months to the satisfaction of the district, signed Eben Nutting by order of committee, dated February 16, 1810. There is a history of this short term.

The prevailing religion of that period was Presbyterian, quiet, severe, silent and stiff. It was a community of the one faith. A Methodist revivalist opened out upon them with noise and power. Church members and sinners took on the spirit of excitement, confessed their sins, received the Holy Ghost and fell into trances. This emotional excitement swept the entire Bannister family into the new faith, except the absent son who was teaching in far away Massachusetts. The loving father went after Pliny with his sleigh, but the boy refused to return. The school committee protested. Then the solicitous, determined parent demanded in the name of the law and the minor son yielded and heard the new Gospel but could not accept it as truth. He took to studying and searching the Bible and claimed the Bible did not teach destruction of God's children, but taught that God was love and every soul should in time confess his name. This was a great disappointment to the brothers and sisters who considered the church the only gate to Heaven. This little family episode serves to show the man Pliny as he was,



## The Bannisters

an investigator, and independent thinker who tempered reason by kindness. The following year Pliny Bannister returned to Massachusetts and taught the same school he had taught the year previous. He then went to Rushford in 1811 and taught school in 1814 and 1815. His certificate was issued by Dyer Story and Abel Belknap, Inspectors of Common Schools.

In April, 1816, Pliny and Wayne Bannister took a tract of land of two hundred acres each, four miles east of Rushford village on Caneadea Creek. They built a saw and grist mill at the head of the gorge on Caneadea Creek. Lucy Bannister, a sister at Windsor, Vermont, joined them as housekeeper. May, 1820, Wayne fell from the dam and when found was dead. Sister Lucy could not endure the strain so returned to Windsor. Roderick with his wife came to the valley and formed a partnership to operate the sawmill with Pliny, which continued for a number of years. Later the mill was sold to other parties.

Pliny Bannister on February 19, 1823, at Angelica, New York, married Miss Abigail Whicher, daughter of Stephen Whicher, Esq., of Rochester, Vermont. Before her marriage she taught school and had been employed by Mr. Burbank,\* Mr. Hopper and Mr. Ketchum to teach their children. Mr. and Mrs. Bannister lived in the home they built in the valley of Caneadea Creek near the mills for forty-three years. Mrs. Bannister possessed good health, executive ability, intelligence, a cheerful disposition and a willingness to help share the burdens present in an undeveloped country, not only in her own home but in her neighbors' as well. She was a prized friend in sickness. Nine children grew to maturity in this home. The eldest, Thank-

\*Eleazer Burbank and George P. Ketchum settled in Caneadea in 1812, and Rockwell Hopper in Belfast the same year.

## Rushford Families

ful Esther, married Luther Gilman of Centerville; Silas married Lucinda Emmerson of Rushford; Henry C. died of fever at the age of nineteen; Stephen Whicher died of fever also at eighteen years; Mariett married Alfred Kellogg of Rushford; Amelia married Chas. A. De Berczy of Toronto, Canada; Fanny S. married Linus Kendall of Rushford; Julia married Dr. V. W. Sunderlin of Michigan; Andrew J. enlisted in Company D, 64th New York Volunteers, Captain Woodworth, and died a martyr to his country's call. He is buried in the Richmond National Cemetery, Virginia. Mrs. Amelia Bannister De Berczy is the only surviving member of Pliny Bannister's family. She lives at Fort Scott, Kansas.

Pliny Bannister was generous and kind to all, a loving friend and good conversationalist. He would always illustrate his point by telling a story and leave his opponent in good humor but with something to think of. In that community every person had opinions of his own. There were some spicy debates at the church at noon recess between the hours of twelve and one. When the church bell rang all became seated in expectant silence. Pliny Bannister was a liberal supporter of all religious denominations and was one of the builders of the Rushford Universalist Church. He was a fine musician and taught his children sacred music. His admonition to his children was, "Be true for truth's sake." He attended church in all seasons. His habits were temperate and his mind evenly poised. He was interested in public improvements and in the development of the country, especially in good schools and good roads. He opened quarries to furnish stone for building the locks on the Genesee Valley Canal and furnished plank for the New Hudson, Rushford and Caneadea Plank Road. He built a sawmill and planing mill in the Gorge to work up his pine

## The Bannisters

timber, but the fire bugs got in their dastardly work and he saw his labor and capital go up in smoke. This was followed by the Belfast Bank failure, making a total loss of his surplus funds. Still undaunted he went to Michigan and purchased timber lands to begin anew, but again suffered disappointment because of his failing strength. He then thought of the beautiful prairie country and came to Fort Scott, Kansas, to be with his daughters Amelia and Julia.

I have mentioned but a few of the incidents of this one life in the new wild country but enough perhaps to give a glimpse of the many hardships of the brave little band of young men who came to conquer the wilderness and did conquer it. They made for themselves homes of comfort and reared their children. Their descendants today occupy places of prominence at home and abroad and are proud to speak of their birthplace, Rushford.

Mrs. Pliny Bannister died in Fort Scott, Kansas, January, 1870, and Mr. Pliny Bannister died in the same place October, 1870.

In the childhood days of the Bannister children their acquaintance was limited in a degree by the school district. It gives me great pleasure to mention the worthy people we called neighbors, but who to us were like near relatives. From the Bannister house we could see the homes of Uncle Bill Woodworth, William Wheeler, William Ackerly, Mr. Persons, John Orcutt, Dan Balcom and Len Walker. All the children from these families met in a small schoolhouse builded by Pliny Bannister on a lot donated by Roderick Bannister. We were all interested in each other, ever noting the absence or presence of the expected ones. There was no dissension among the pupils, the little school was a veritable Arcadia. Nor is it a wonder when the grand and

## Rushford Families

beautiful scenery surrounding, with its changing loveliness, was ever an inspiration. There were bright sunshine, flitting clouds, quick showers, green lawns, singing rivulets and cool springs, indulgent teachers and loving homes to run to. Truly it is a beautiful oasis in the retrospection, this far away home of our childhood.

NOTE—Mrs. Belle Kellogg Lane is the only grandchild of Pliny Bannister living in Rushford.

### THE BANNISTERS

From the "Ely Book"

PLINY BANNISTER came to Rushford when twenty-one years of age. He assisted in surveying the township, and was the first town clerk, the first school teacher and the first music teacher in town.

Lucy Bannister, daughter of Silas and Thankful Ely Bannister, was born in 1784 in Windsor, Vermont, where in 1832 she married Rufus Root. After his death, which occurred in 1837, she moved to Rushford where she remained until her death in 1855. She had no children.

Warren Bannister, son of Silas and Thankful Ely Bannister, was born in West Windsor, Vermont, July 26, 1781. He married in Rochester, New Hampshire, February 5, 1810, Sarah, daughter of Paul and Judith (Brown) Place. Warren Bannister was a Methodist preacher, having joined the New England Conference in 1800. In 1817 he removed to Rushford, New York, where three brothers then resided. In August, 1820, his wife died leaving him with four children, the youngest two weeks old. After spending more than ten years in the State of New York he returned to Vermont. Later he went to Rochester, New Hampshire.

## The Bannisters

In September, 1834, he consented to occupy temporarily the pulpit of a church in Nashua, New Hampshire, but after preaching three Sabbaths, he was prostrated with typhoid fever which resulted in his death on the 19th of October after two weeks' illness. His death was peaceful and triumphant.

His children were Pluma (Mrs. Alonzo Persons), born in 1811 in Rochester, New Hampshire; Adam Clark, born in Barnard, Vermont; and Hester Ann (Mrs. Madison Richards), and Sarah (Mrs. Thomas Delano), born in Rushford, where they all married. Mrs. Persons and Mrs. Richards died in Rushford, Adam Clark Bannister in Angelica, and Mrs. Delano in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

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Epitaph in the First Burying Ground in Rushford:

Sacred  
to the  
Memory of  
Sarah Banifter, Wife of  
Elder Warren Banifter  
Who was Neat, Industrious,  
Economical and Pious.  
An Ornament to her SEX.  
DIED Aug. 13th, 1820  
Aged 29 yrs & 23 dys.  
Till CHRIST Return  
Thy dear REMAINS  
My BOSOM Friend  
Lies here for Worms



## Rushford Families

### THE THIRDS.

Nancy E. De Kay

OUR father, James Thirds, was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, December 27, 1806, of English and Scotch parents. His father was from London, England, and his mother from Boston, Massachusetts. Owing to the death of his father, which occurred when he was six years old, his mother, with her children, James and a younger son, William, went to Rushford, traveling all the way by stage, the only mode of conveyance in those days. She made her home with her brother, the Rev. Thomas Pratt. Father was a tailor by trade but followed that business only the first years of his life.

Our mother, Parthenia G. Gilman, was born in Cambridge, N. Y., August 16, 1807, of Scotch and American parents. She was a descendant of an old and distinguished Virginia family, that of John Randolph of Roanoke. She went to Rushford as a guest of Dr. and Mrs. Horatio Smith, who persuaded her to remain. She there followed her occupation of millinery and dressmaking. As the days passed by, she and the young tailor "met by chance the usual way." Their acquaintance ripened and resulted in a happy marriage which occurred on May 28, 1828, the ceremony being performed by Samuel White, Esquire, at that time Justice of the Peace. They immediately went to housekeeping in a very modest way on the upper street. We have heard our mother relate with some little sense of pride and merriment that they moved, settled and had company to tea, all in one day.

There were born to them four children, two of whom died in infancy. The two remaining are Mrs. Nancy E. Thirds De Kay, born August 28, 1832, and Miss Zeruah

## The Thirds

Isabel Thirds, born February 11, 1835; they lived to hear the interesting and thrilling events of their parents' life in a new country. The following is one of many. When a boy, father was often sent to the mill with grist. One day he was detained there unusually long and it was dark before he left for home. After going some distance he was chased by a panther. Whipping up his horse he rode into Uncle Luther Woodworth's barn. There he was kindly protected and sheltered until the next morning.

In looking backward over the cherished lives of our beloved parents it gives us great joy and comfort to remember their earnest Christian faith, a rich legacy they left to us. They were faithful members of the Baptist Church and took great interest in all the events pertaining to the welfare of the town. Our father was very quiet and a man of few words. The following incident will give an illustration. In our early childhood we used to sleep in a trundlebed, a bed much used for children in those days. My sister and I fell into the habit of contending about which of us had the "most room," our mother often bidding us be quiet. One winter evening after being put to bed, she and father sitting by the table reading, we began our song of contention for the "most room" as usual. After a time father came to our bedside, gently removed the covering and left the room. He presently returned with a four-foot log, well decorated with snow, ice and moss, which he carefully laid between us. He then replaced the bedding and resumed his reading. Of course quiet prevailed in that little bed immediately. After a time father asked us if we thought we could cease from further contention. We quickly and meekly replied, "Yes sir." He then removed the log and our dear mother appeared on the scene and tenderly removed the wet night dresses, replacing them with dry ones, putting us in her own

## Rushford Families

bed until she could make ours dry and comfortable again. No words were exchanged during the episode nor any allusion ever made to it afterward. In later years sister and I have referred to it with considerable amusement. Perhaps it is needless to say that the punishment had its lasting effect. It was the only one our father ever administered to us.

We are still holding the fragrant memories of our happy childhood days in the beautiful village of dear old Rushford.

### THE PERRYS

H. J. W. G.

**I**N the early part of the nineteenth century there lived in the old Bay State, near Deerfall River, twenty miles from Boston, three brothers, Othniel, Ebenezer and Ephraim Perry. There must have been something of the spirit of adventure in the family, since as early as 1808 Othniel took out articles for land on the Holland Purchase in township five, range two. As he soon died the land was taken by Ebenezer P. Perry who came to Rushford about 1813 and settled on land now owned by Mrs. Chauncey Williams, on the Mount Monroe road, three-quarters of a mile south of the schoolhouse on the corner. At the first town meeting he was elected one of the overseers of the poor. He passed his life as a farmer.

Addis Perry of Belfast, son of Josiah Quincy and Emily (Knickerbocker) Perry, is a grandson of Ebenezer P. Perry. On an interesting gray-brown headstone in the graveyard west of the village, one may read the following: "In memory of Ebenezer P. Perry who departed this life Sept. 3rd, 1844, aged 67 yrs.

## The Perrys

"My flesh shall slumber in the ground  
Till Gabriel's joyful trump shall sound."

His good wife, Hannah (Spear) Perry, lived to be four-score years of age.

Ephraim Perry, so far as we know, was the only one of the early settlers who had attended college, though his superabundance of life did not allow him to graduate. On perhaps an unlucky day, to accommodate a friend, he signed a paper with him and thus lost the bulk of his property, so in 1818 with a team and covered wagon, he started for the Holland Purchase where his brother already lived. He settled on the Mount Monroe road, south of his brother's farm, on the farm now owned by C. E. Hartman. For a short time he lived in a log house on land near the Gordonville bridge. A stranger calling there, said afterwards that he found the woman weeping; she longed for the comforts and friends left behind in old Massachusetts.

Ephraim being educated beyond his fellows, taught school and was made town superintendent of schools. He was one of the brightest men in Allegany County. He had an excellent memory, was well informed in public affairs and an excellent story teller. It is refreshing, since the majority of the early settlers were Whigs, to find that he was a Democrat. As he had lived so near Boston he must have been somewhat imbued with its intellectual spirit. This, together with the fact that he sharpened his wits by frequent discussions with his Whig neighbors, made him so formidable an antagonist that he worsted that ardent Whig, J. B. Gordon, in political controversy.

Ephraim Perry had six children, four of whom were born in Massachusetts. Since Massachusetts people ate rye bread, on their journey to the new country, the children had

## Rushford Families

their first wheat bread and milk. What a treat it was! When they came to Rushford there was a log fence up and down Main Street. The roads were so rough that withes were braided and fastened to the carts so that those riding in them could have something to hang onto and would not be spilled out.

Ephraim Perry was born in Chesterfield, Massachusetts; he died in New Hudson, New York. Chester and Foster Perry, sons of Austin and Julia Perry, are grandchildren of Ephraim and Hannah (Jones) Perry. The Perrys are of English descent and are related to the bold and dashing Commodore Perry who won the Battle of Lake Erie and gave us the words, "We have met the enemy and they are ours."

### LUTHER WOODWORTH, SR.

H. J. W. G.

LUTHER WOODWORTH was born in Coventry, Connecticut, October 18, 1770. He emigrated to Caven-  
dish, Vermont; from that place he moved to Saratoga Springs, and, in 1813, he settled (as Parker Woodworth says) in "righteous Rushford," where his oldest daughter, Harmony, who had married John Gordon, already lived. Mr. Woodworth's son, Luther, in company with John White, walked from Vermont to Rushford. Mr. Woodworth located on Caneadea Creek, on lot twenty-eight, where G. C. Woods now lives. The Indians had underbrushed the woods and used it for a camping ground. A few brush-heaps then marked the site of Rushford village. He and his son Luther rolled back the logs from what is now Main



## Luther Woodworth, Sr.

Street, and early in the forties some of them still formed a part of the fence.

Luther Woodworth, senior, married for his second wife the widow Wheeler, mother of Gilbert and William; and Luther Woodworth, junior, married Lucy, daughter of the widow Wheeler.

When Parker Woodworth, a son of Luther, Sr., by the second wife, was about eight years old, his father moved to Kelloggville, having bought of James Dutton a part of what was later known as the Colburn farm. Since this land bordered on Caneadea Creek, it was the first land taken up on Rush Creek.

In political belief Mr. Woodworth was a Democrat. When he was feeling well he had a way of holding his lines so his horses would dance. They usually danced when he came from town. Mr. Woodworth played the clarinet and his son Parker the drum, giving much pleasure to the neighbors. Taking life easy, he never accumulated much property, but he lived to the ripe age of ninety years. Capt. William W. Woodworth, after whom the Rushford Post of the Grand Army of the Republic is named; and Charles W. Woodworth, so many years lawyer, postmaster, supervisor and justice of the peace in Rushford, were grandsons of Luther Woodworth, Sr. Other grandchildren were Martha (Mrs. Alpheus Howser), Maria (Mrs. James Napier), Helen (Mrs. R. Bonham Laning), and Georgia (Mrs. John Berry). Mrs. Helen Laning, whose home is on the corner of Church and Main Streets, is the only living child of Luther Woodworth, Jr. Parker Woodworth, eighty-nine years old, is living in Girard, Pennsylvania. Chas. Howser, Ralph B. Laning and Genevieve Laning are grandchildren of Luther Woodworth, Jr., who live in Rushford.

## Rushford Families

### JOHN HAMMOND

H. J. W. G.

**J**OHN HAMMOND was born in Saratoga County. In 1814 he came from Cayuga County to Rushford and settled on Barber Hill on the land now owned by William Barber; after a number of years he moved to Taylor Hill, living on the farm now owned by E. M. Olney, at the four corners. His oldest son, Horatio Nelson, was born in Cuyaga County in 1812. While living in Rushford, John Hammond married Eliza Butterfield, by whom he had nine children, Lucretia, Hannah, Mary, Ruth, Minerva, Luthan, Thankful, Elizabeth and Benton. These all became identified with spiritualism. Thankful was a medium.

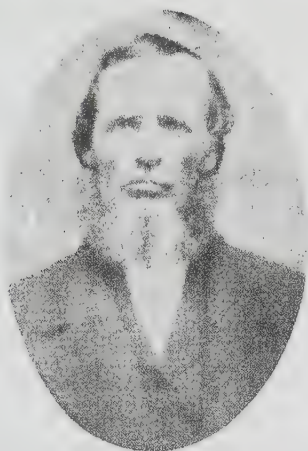
John Hammond was a scholar for the times and all of the children were school teachers. Although in political belief he was a Jeffersonian Democrat, two years he was elected supervisor of the town of Rushford. He was prominent in the Masonic fraternity. He had been to Olean to address a lodge of Freemasons, when returning home afoot, he became weary and lying down by a spring on Mt. Monroe, slept till morning. By trade he was a carpenter. He was also a surveyor. In 1822 he was captain of a company of militia. When his son, Horatio Nelson, was united in marriage to Sophia S. Bennett, he, being justice of the peace, performed the ceremony. John Hammond moved with his family to Pennsylvania in 1850.

When H. Nelson Hammond was a boy, for two or three winters he walked daily from Barber Hill to Mount Monroe to attend school in a log building that stood on the farm now owned by Reuben Lewis; later he attended the Academy at Middlebury (now Wyoming) six weeks. His father instructed him in land surveying, an avocation which he fol

## John Hammond



John Hammond



Horatio Nelson Hammond

lowed a large part of his life. Much of his fund of knowledge, which was unusual for that time in Rushford, was acquired by reading. When seventeen years old he commenced teaching winter schools; fourteen of his twenty-six terms were taught in Rushford.

Some time in the thirties he was captain of a company of militia which in accordance with the requirements of the law frequently met to drill. F. Eugene Hammond of Cuba recalls with pleasure the shining epaulets, the cockade hat and the sword with scabbard once worn by his father.

H. Nelson and Sophia L. Hammond were the parents of seven children: F. Eugene, who in 1867 married Emma L. Scott of Cuba; H. Jerome, who married Susie Hendy; Flora A., wife of W. D. Hale; C. De Alton, who married Laura Farwell of Rushford, daughter of Lemuel Farwell; Aurora S., who died when two years old; and the twins, Emma F. (Mrs. Elbert Cady), and Eva L. (Mrs. Walter Finch). H. Jerome, Flora A., Emma F. and the widow of

## Rushford Families

De Alton live in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where Eva L. was living at the time of her death.

Intelligence has ever been a mark of a Hammond home.

### AMBA ALDERMAN

H. J. W. G.

AMBA ALDERMAN was born in Hartford, Connecticut, and came to Rushford in 1814. He bought of the Holland Land Company one hundred acres, four miles northwest of Rushford village, at three dollars an acre, paying for it in oxen, a pair at a time. He married Rhoba Johnson, daughter of Pomeroy Johnson, who came to Rushford in 1814, and lived on the farm now owned by George Cole, on the east road north from the present village, near the bridge. It was Rhoba Johnson who longed for a silk dress. Finally she possessed the coveted treasure. To be sure jealous eyes looked on, and some said, "How big she feels," while others said, "She hasn't got anything to go with it" but what cared she? She had her dress.

Arthur Alderman, son of Amba Harvey, tells the following creepy story about his grandfather: A squaw laid her pappoose down by the fence and a hog belonging to Mr. Alderman ate it up. The squaw ran and told her Indian, who shot the hog. Mr. Alderman's blood was up. He seized the Indian's gun and made him pay for the hog. The squaw mourned for her pappoose. To Mr. Alderman the loss of a hog meant much.

Two of his sons, Amba Harvey and Chauncey L., served in the Civil War. Amba Harvey came to Rushford village in 1872 and built a steam sawmill in which for more than twenty years he sawed an average of 250,000 feet of

## The Freemans

lumber a year. Amba Alderman died January 4, 1868. Mrs. Flora Colburn of East Rushford is a granddaughter of Amba Alderman.

### THE FREEMANS

H. J. W. G.

**I**N 1808 Josiah Freeman took a contract for land in township five, range two, of the Holland Purchase. After he had made a few payments, the first of which was three dollars, he died, in 1812. His father, Junia Freeman, being next to kin, came to Rushford in 1814 from Hamilton, Madison County, to secure the title to the land. He brought with him six children, Elijah, Eleazer, Maria, Sally, Zenas and Bethuel. Peter came later. Mr. William Dunham (Uncle Bill Dunham) had been hired to come and clear a place and put up a house in 1813. Junia Freeman lived north of Rushford village, on the farm now owned by Mrs. Luther Thomas and occupied by George Cooper. When Elijah married he lived just above and when Eleazer married he lived next above him toward Centerville. Junia Freeman had a deed, dated 1818 of the southern part of lot thirty-two, one hundred and ninety-five acres.

Three of Junia Freeman's sons were Baptist preachers, and one daughter, Sally, married the Rev. Eliab Going. Junia Freeman and one of his sons went to Sardinia to build a church. They traveled ride-and-tie, that is, one started on the road on foot; the other, mounted on the horse, rode about a mile, dismounted, tied the horse and walked on. When the one who had started on foot reached the waiting horse, he mounted and rode on past the other for a mile or so, then dismounted, tied and walked on. This was re-



## Rushford Families

peated until the end of the journey was reached. Bethuel Freeman was thrice married and was the father of eight children: Addison and Burton; Cynthia (Mrs. Mason La Sell), Ellen, who remained single, Albert, and Sarah (Mrs. Asa Hardy); Wilbur and Albert. Burton Freeman of Shiocton, Wisconsin, Albert Freeman of Franklinville, and Wilbur Freeman of Rushford are still living.

D. W. Leavens, in reminiscences written in 1890 from Pasadena, California, after visiting with Mrs. Nelson McCall, says, "I could see how old Junia Freeman's high-backed wagon looked as he drove to church on a Sunday morning. It brought to mind the sermons of Eliab Going who always stammered till he got well started. It seems to me now that he always preached from the text 'Godliness with contentment is great gain.' (Of course I have no feeling but reverence for these old worthies.) It brought back the time when I used to sing in the Baptist choir and the later time when I was promoted to lead it, and I could almost hear the tenor of Eliab Benjamin and the deep basso profundo of Andrew Kimball and Harrison Hapgood. It brought back the time when 'Thuel Freeman—bless his memory!—brought us a ham for my services as chorister, and good Mrs. John Holmes gave Mrs. Leavens a fine cake of maple sugar for her services as organist."

## THE GOINGS

Harriett Going Colby

CAPTAIN JONATHAN GOING came to Rushford from Reading, Vermont, in 1814, and settled on the Centerville road on what is known as the Talcott farm. The children of Jonathan and Sarah Going occupied the

## The Goings

northern part of the farm and James, who had married Anna Young in Vermont, occupied the southern part. Early in 1832 James was ordained in Rushford by a council of delegates from several churches. He afterwards moved with his family to Pennsylvania. Eliab came to Rushford from Ovid, Seneca County, with James McCall, in whose employ he was for some years. On the 5th of March, 1818, he married Sarah Freeman, daughter of Junia Freeman. Their children were A. Judson, J. Bradley, Harriett, Kate R., Jonathan R., and I. Freeman. Three are now living, Bradley, eighty-six years of age is living in Michigan, Harriett, in Holland, New York, and Kate, in Spokane, Washington. In 1819 Ezra received a letter of dismissal and commendation from the Baptist Church in Rushford, since they thought he possessed the gift of preaching. The same year the sister of Eliab Going married and his mother died, so he took the farm and his father lived with him. Capt. Jonathan Going was a Revolutionary soldier. He died in 1848 in Aurora, New York, but is buried in the Rushford Cemetery.

Eliab Going commenced preaching about 1821. He attended Middlebury Academy, under the tuition of Rev. Joshua Bradley. In 1823 he was ordained pastor of the Baptist Church in Rushford. He was connected with an enterprise to benefit the Indians on the Genesee River. A school was established and sustained until the Indians were removed. In 1832 he moved to Franklinville and preached there one-fourth the time. He organized churches in Hinsdale and Olean and supplied them. He was in Hinsdale, twelve years; Holland; Aurora, eight years; Wales, and other places. At the beginning of the Civil War, he was preaching in Newport, Kentucky, where his sons were in business; but they all moved to McHenry, Illinois, where

## Rushford Families

Eliab Going and his wife died. They were buried in one grave February 28, 1896.

Eliab Going was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Rushford in its early existence, and, as an old lady said, "he never pronounced" it, though for many years he did not meet with the order. In the time of the war, a chaplain was needed in the lodge at McHenry so he again met with the order. Some two hundred Freemasons participated in his burial.

Elder Going was often called upon to marry a couple and many pleasing incidents occurred upon such occasions. He married a couple the week before he died; no one else was wanted. He stammered badly at times; this was a great annoyance to him. Once when he was very tired, a man, who came for him to marry a couple, said to him, "Elder, you stammer so, I bet you a quart of wine you can never pronounce them husband and wife." The Elder got the wine. One fellow wanted to be married and wait till he harvested his beans before he paid the fee.

Once he went horseback twelve miles over poor and muddy roads to attend a stylish wedding at Great Valley. The bridegroom gave him a fee in a sealed envelope. He felt the coin, it was about the size of a five-dollar gold piece. He did not open the envelope, but when he reached home, he gave the fee, as his custom was, to his wife. She opened the envelope and—lo, a new penny. One Saturday, in later years, when he was traveling in Michigan, he wished to find a place to stay over Sunday; seeing a man working in a field he drove up to the fence and asked where there was a Baptist tavern. The man said, "If I am not mistaken, this is Elder Going; you do not recognize me?" "No; I don't" replied the Elder. Then the man asked if he remembered attending a wedding at Great Valley. "I am the

## The Orcutts

man that was married. I thought since I was engaged in a lottery I would venture a penny; I won a prize. Come stop with me." The Elder staid over Sunday and went away with ten dollars.

### THE ORCUTTS

Allan H. Gilbert

THE Orcutts a family of Scotch-Irish descent, were settled near Hartford, Windsor County, Vermont, at the time from which the first records have come down. The chief source of information for this time is an old rhyme relating the death of one of the family, which has been handed down to the present time by word of mouth.

One Isaac Orcutt was his name  
Who lately into Hartford came  
Residing with his brother James  
One afternoon went so it seems  
To cut some runners for his sled.  
The snow being deep he had to wade  
Near forty rods to an ash tree  
The top being dead as you shall see.  
He cut the tree off from the stump.  
The top being lodged flew back a chunk  
Which fell and hit him on the head  
And crushed him though he was not dead.  
There the poor sufferer senseless lay  
All the remainder of the day  
His charming face plunged in the snow  
While from his head the blood did flow.  
No search was made by anyone

## Rushford Families

Until the setting of the sun  
When Mr. Donley and his son  
Alarmed set out upon the run.  
They soon beheld him with surprise  
And gazed on him with steadfast eyes.  
They then supposed him to be dead  
Till by a motion of his head.  
They took him up and bore him home  
Put him to bed in a warm room.  
They rubbed his limbs and dressed his wound  
And tried to force a cordial down.  
But all in vain the passage choked,  
His blood was chilled, his skull was broke.  
All medicine was then applied  
But he on that same evening died.  
The friends and neighbors gathered round  
The sermon preached by Elder Brown.  
His corpse with care was borne away  
To mingle with his native clay.

James Orcutt, the brother, with his wife, Deborah Rood Orcutt, and their children came to Cayuga County where at Auburn, January 15, 1808, their daughter Rachel married Andre Bennett. In 1811 Andre and Rachel, with their daughter Sophronia borne the year before, came to Rushford and settled near the Six Corners. Some three years later, Rachel's brothers, Samuel and Stephen, arrived in Rushford and settled on land adjoining the farm of Andre Bennett. They were soon followed by their brothers, John and Daniel, their sister, Deborah Orcutt Seavey, and their mother. James Orcutt, the father, lived in Rushford a few years in a house near the Six Corners. In 1814 his name is found in a list of the lieutenants of militia in Allegany



## The Orcutts

County and in 1816 in a list of the captains. February 12, 1816, he was one of six whose names appear in a petition for the establishment of a Masonic lodge in Rushford, and on March 18, 1817, he left the Angelica Lodge, of which he had been a member, to become a charter member of Rushford Lodge. However, he seems to have had no further connection with the lodge for in a list of members from the organization, March 18, 1817, to June 24, 1818, his name does not appear. James Orcutt was elected one of three commissioners of highways at the first town meeting in April, 1816. The date of the last entry in the town records which contains his name is November 23, 1816.

About the year 1820 Stephen went down the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers to Indiana. He enlisted in the Seminole war in 1840 and was never heard from again. In 1827 Samuel and Daniel followed Stephen to Indiana.

Though Daniel Orcutt left Rushford so many years ago his memory has been preserved by some of his witty sayings. Once when he went north with a party of men to assist in the wheat harvest of Livingston County one of his companions named Wilcox fell sick. "The great fool," said Orcutt, "ate all he wanted the first meal." The change from the scanty diet of leeks then attributed to Allegany County had been too much. Daniel Orcutt was once working for Deacon Rawson on the County Line Road between Allegany and Cattaraugus counties. One Saturday the Deacon promised to give each of the men a drink of whiskey if they would finish a certain piece of work by night. The work was done, so the Deacon brought out a jug and a glass and commenced to pour out the whiskey which he said was eight years old. He was not very generous with his whiskey, giving only about a third of a glass to each man. When Orcutt's turn came, taking the glass, he said,

## Rushford Families

"Deacon, did you say this whiskey is eight years old?" "Yes," answered the Deacon. "Well," replied Orcutt, "it looks pretty damned small for its age." Even the Deacon laughed. Though not a steady drinker, Daniel Orcutt sometimes indulged in larger amounts of whiskey than that furnished by Deacon Rawson. Once he hired two men to help him drink a barrel he had bought. One of them came at seven o'clock in the morning. Orcutt turned him off, saying that he didn't want him if he couldn't get there earlier than that. Daniel Orcutt worked for a widow on Rush Creek. When his time was up the woman, who owed him nearly a year's wages, promised to pay him as soon as she sold her oxen. After waiting a long time Orcutt took her oxen from the pasture in broad daylight and drove them off. She had him arrested for stealing, partly, it was hinted, because her hopes of marrying him had been disappointed. When he was brought into court and asked whether he were guilty or not guilty, he replied, "Guilty as hell." So he was sent to State's Prison at Auburn. While he was there he learned to make beautiful coverlids. His sister, Mrs. Andre Bennett, used to think that it did him good to go to prison, because while there he studied the Bible so thoroughly that he was able to repeat large portions of it. He was soon pardoned. One day Elder Warren Bannister, a Methodist circuit rider, labored with Orcutt because of his wild life. The latter listened in silence till the Elder finished. Then he asked permission to reply in rhyme and jingled off:

"Elder Bannister's face  
Is an open disgrace  
To every human creature.  
I wonder what the Almighty thought  
In making him a preacher."

## Matthew P. Cady

The Elder said, "That will do," and walked into the house. While in Indiana, Daniel Orcutt did not marry the girl he loved because he feared his drinking habits might cause her unhappiness. Nothing is known of Daniel Orcutt after he went to the Seminole war. He is thought to have perished in the massacre of Major Dade's command in 1835.

Deborah Orcutt Seavey lived in Rushford until her death. The stone erected over her grave by her daughter Martha, second wife of Parker Woodworth, bears the simple inscription, "My Mother's Grave."

After the death of Andre Bennett, his wife, Rachel, lived with her daughters, Deborah and Rachel. She was one of the early settlers present at the Semi-Centennial. Mrs. Flora Hammond Hale says that she and the other children felt proud to think that grandma who lived with them sat on the stage.

## MATTHEW P. CADY

H. J. W. G.

**M**ATTHEW P. CADY, of Irish descent, was born in Windsor, Vermont, 1786. It is not known when he came to Rushford, but he was a resident of the place February 12, 1816, since at that time his name appears on a petition to the Grand Lodge of Masons of the State of New York. At the first town meeting he was elected one of the assessors. In 1819 he was elected town clerk, in 1820 supervisor, which office he held for five consecutive years. At a session of the board of supervisors held at the public house of Alexander D'Autremont in Angelica, November 16, 1825, he was made clerk of the board. Feb-

## Rushford Families

ruary 26, 1822, he was one of the justices of the peace in Rushford. In 1835 he was one of five elected county superintendents of the poor.

June 4, 1822, he married Lucy Hardy, by whom he had six children, Patrick, Lucy (Mrs. Charles Smith), Perry, Sophia (Mrs. Peter Pettit), Henderson and Harrison. In accordance with the wishes of his wife, after her death, he married Lucy Tarbell, June 26, 1831. Two children were born to them, George Washington and Andrew Jackson.

Mr. Cady owned land on the west side of the Creek road just beyond the bridge, but he lived in the house on Buffalo Street, now the home of Mrs. Caroline Crocker. Matthew P. Cady, John Spencer and others built on Caneadea Creek, in 1816, the first sawmill in Rushford. Mr. Cady caught cold while lumbering in the Pine Woods and in a week was gone, at fifty-nine years of age. The last day of his life he uttered the words, "Two o'clock and I must give it up." In the First Burying Ground in Rushford one may read his epitaph, "Though lost to sight to memory dear." The only descendant now living in town is Bessie Cady, daughter of George Cady.

## JAMES McCALL

H. J. W. G.

**I**N 1815 James McCall, his wife Elizabeth and eight children came from Ovid, Seneca County, to Rushford where he purchased eight hundred acres of land. He settled on the east road, north of the present village, where, in 1816, in one of the first frame buildings in the settlement, he opened the first store. Before long he moved to the farm on the Caneadea road, now owned by Watkins James.

## James McCall

He bought and ran the grist mill which had been built in 1813 by ——— Warren. It stood on land now owned by Mrs. Julia Walker. "After the almost entire loss of the small crops of the new settlers, in the cold season of 1816, there, as in most of the new settlements upon the Purchase, extreme scarcity of provisions prevailed. The Judge, owning a mill, controlled all the grain in the neighborhood, except a little corn that the Indians had upon the Caneadea reservation. He gave orders to sell to no one man over forty pounds of flour or meal; and not to sell to those who had teams, and the means of procuring breadstuff by going out to the older settlements after it. And when his supplies became reduced, he restricted the amount to be sold to any one man, to twenty pounds. In this way, the poorest and most destitute of the new settlers were carried along until the harvest of 1817."

In 1816 he owned a sawmill on Caneadea Creek. His first grist mill at East Rushford was built in 1818. The second burned many years ago, but the foundation still remains and forms part of the wall of the present mill. Carved on a stone at the east end, one may read, "J. McCall & Sons, 1831." In 1847 James McCall & Sons sold their mill to G. Grimard.

For seven years he was a member of the State Legislature,\* being three years in the Assembly and four in the Senate. "April 10, 1818, an act was passed by the Legislature appointing Thomas Dole of Nunda, John Hoyt of Caneadea, and James McCall of Rushford commissioners to lay out a road on the west side of the Genesee River through the Caneadea Reservation, and to 'agree with and satisfy the Indians owning and possessing said land for their reasonable damages for said roads passing through

\*After he came to Allegany County.



## Rushford Families

their improved lands.' \$1,000 was appropriated for the purpose."

1817 was the year of his first appearance as a member of the Court of General Sessions and the Court of Common Pleas. From this time he was called Judge McCall.

He was one of the constituent members of the "First Baptist Church in Rushford," which was organized in 1816. The family altar which he reared was never neglected, though there were those who thought, since he had so many men in his employ, that it was a great loss of time. Thursday evening the chairs were put into the wagon and he and his family went to the house of prayer. Mr. H. B. Ackerley said that he had heard his mother say that he often closed his testimony in Covenant meeting with these words, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved."

James McCall died March 24, 1856, when eighty-two years of age, having lived an honored and useful life. One, riding from Rushford to Caneadea, observes in a field about a mile from Rushford village, on the left side of the road, a monument. It was erected to the memory of James McCall, his wife Elizabeth, his wife Lydia, his daughter Sophia Goff, her husband Richard S. Goff, and other members of the McCall family who years ago were buried here in a family lot on the farm:

Children of James and Elizabeth McCall.

Sophia (Mrs. R. S. Goff), born 1800.

Milton, born 1801.

Matilda (Mrs. E. K. Howe), born 1803.

Emily (Mrs. D. Searl), born 1805.

Seneca, born 1807.

Nelson, born 1810.

## Levi Benjamin

Maria (Mrs. A. Miner), born 1812.

Ansel, born 1814.

Naomi (Mrs. Ezra Chase), born 1815.

Eliza (Mrs. A. K. Benjamin), born 1819.

James, born 1820.

Ira Newell, born 1821.

Catharine (Mrs. P. Rappleye), born 1822.

Jacob, born 1824.

Nelson McCall left Rushford in 1855, but in the seventies his son, Elbert, was engaged in the mercantile business in Rushford, on the corner of Main and Church Streets.

One grandchild of James McCall, Mrs. Sophia (Benjamin) Taylor, lives in Rushford.

## LEVI BENJAMIN

H. J. W. G.

LEVI BENJAMIN was born in Ashburnham, Massachusetts, in 1777. His first wife, Nancy (Willard) Benjamin, mother of Betsey and Nancy, died in 1800. His second wife, Abigail Kendall, was the mother of Sally,\* Lucy, Albert, Eliab (1812), Almond (1813), Albert and Charles (1817). His third wife, whom he married in 1842, was Deborah Kendall, a widow. Levi Benjamin had lived in both Windsor and Woodstock, Vt., but came to Rushford from Ovid, Seneca County, in 1815. How long he had been in Seneca County is not known. He settled on lot thirty, on land now occupied by Charles Hall, son of the late Arcelia (Benjamin) Hall. Here he built one of the first log taverns in the town. In one end of the tavern was a loft, the other end was enclosed for chambers, both were reached by a ladder inside. In the loft prayer meetings were sometimes held.

\*Mrs. Daniel Chase, grandmother of Arthur Chase, the violinist.

## Rushford Families

The bar below, the altar above—incongruous, you say. It would be today, not so a hundred years ago when at funerals there was a bountiful supply of liquors, and minister and mourners, in fact all but the dead, drank.

When Levi Benjamin first came to Rushford his neighbors on the north were Josephus Young, Pomeroy Johnson and the Freemans, on the south James McCall, William Gordon, Tarbel Gordon and John Gordon.

Levi Benjamin was one of the constituent members of the Baptist Church and the first deacon. His log tavern was a historic place for in it was held the first town meeting, at which he was elected constable and one of the overseers of the poor. In 1816 a mail route was opened from Perry to Olean. Rushford then had a postoffice and Levi Benjamin was the first postmaster. May 29, 1817, he joined the Rushford Lodge of Freemasons. Meetings of the lodge were sometimes held in his tavern. Once when there was a candidate for initiation, the girl in the kitchen was heating a griddle red-hot. "What are you doing that for?" said the candidate. "Oh, I don't know," said the girl, "they always have me do that when there is any one to be initiated." The would-be Mason disappeared.

When Levi Benjamin came to Rushford he was in the prime of life. After living forty-nine years on the same farm, he was called hence January 27, 1864. The grandchildren who reside in Rushford are Mrs. Sophia E. Taylor, daughter of Almond Benjamin; James G. Benjamin, son of Eliab, and Romain Benjamin, son of Charles. Harrie Hall, who so beautifully decorated the Academy Hall Old Home Week, is a great-great-grandson of Levi Benjamin.

## SAMUEL PERSONS

H. J. W. G.

SAMUEL PERSONS, son of a Universalist preacher, was born in Windsor, Vermont, February 1, 1793. He and his wife, Lucinda Dodge, came to Rushford from Kingsbury, Washington County, in 1816, when their son, Alonzo, was two years old. After staying a short time with Levi Benjamin, a relative, they moved into a log house on the Alma lot, now a part of the farm of George Eaton on the Creek road. Here were born Samuel, John, Daniel Dodge, Lucinda (Mrs. Philetus Gratton), and Adaline (Mrs. D. Ogden). About 1828 they moved to Podunk where Hosea and Myra (1 Mrs. Joseph Rice, 2 Mrs. Lowell Farwell) were born. All but Myra were born in a log house. They lived many years in Podunk, on the Hume road, in the red house north of the corners, now occupied by W. Vaname. In a shop near this house Alonzo and John Persons were the first in town to make sap buckets and sap-tubs. In this way they helped pay for the farm. Dodge Persons was a school teacher of repute. Years later when a boy was being tutored in mental arithmetic Barnes Blanchard who was present said, "Why, that's the way Dodge Persons used to have us do."

The child Caroline was left motherless, so Mrs. Persons, although she had three small children, gave the child of her sister and her husband's brother a home. Mrs. Persons remembered with much appreciation the kindness of Luther Woodworth, Jr., who with his ox team came every day when her husband was sick and drew the back log onto the fire.

Since there were some undesirable citizens in the east part of the town, Samuel Persons said it ought to be called Podunk. The name stays and like some other names given



Mrs. Myra A. Persons Farwell



## David J. Board

in derision, it has come to have a good sound. Samuel Persons did not spell it P-o-d-on-q-u-e. Mrs. Persons said that the strife in the "good old times" was to see who should have the best rye-and-Injun bread or who should get her spinning done first.

Alonzo married Pluma Bannister in 1837; Samuel married Mary Taylor, daughter of Benoni Taylor, in 1841; John's first wife was Caroline Gary Woods, whom he married in 1840, his second wife was Nancy Willis; Daniel Dodge married Melissa Spoor; after her death he married Mrs. Saphronia (Hardy) Kimball; Hosea married Mary Tarbell in 1853; after her death he married Olive M. Gilbert.

Samuel Persons was converted when forty years of age and joined the Methodist Church. Alonzo, Samuel, John, Hosea and Myra were also members of the Methodist Church. Lucinda was a Methodist in early life but later joined the Baptist Church. Adaline was a Universalist. All of the children of Samuel and Lucinda Persons spent their closing days in Rushford, except Samuel, who died in Delevan, and Adaline, who died in Titusville, Pennsylvania. Mr. Persons died in 1867. Mrs. Addie (Rice) Davis and Mrs. Nellie (Persons) Metcalf are the grandchildren of Samuel Persons, who reside in Rushford.

## DAVID J. BOARD

H. J. W. G.

**D**AVID J. BOARD was born in Castleton, Vermont July 27, 1792. In 1816 the settlers of Rushford were glad to hear that a blacksmith, David Board, had come. His shop was on the east side of the road north from Elmer's cheese factory just beyond what is now Benjamin Williams'

## Rushford Families

house. August 2, 1818, he married in Rushford Laura Ruhama Woods, sister of Daniel Woods.

The following teacher's certificate will be of interest.

"We, the undersigned Inspectors of Common Schools for the town of Caneadea in the County of Allegany, do certify that we have examined Laura Board and do believe she is of good moral character and of sufficient learning and ability, and in all other respects well qualified to teach a common school.

"Given under our hands at Caneadea, the eleventh day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen.

"Freeman S. Wilson,

"James Rice,

"Daniel Woods,

"Inspectors of Common Schools."

Oscar F. Board, the only child of David and Laura Board, was born in Bloomfield, Ontario County, February 22, 1820. When he was four years old he came with his parents to Rushford. They settled in Podonque on the southern part of lot twenty-two near the meeting of three roads. November 26, 1848, Oscar F. married his cousin, Clarissa Richards. Their two children, Frank M., and Anna, were born in the old homestead. Laura Board died in February, 1869, and David Board in August, 1877. Frank M. Board, who resides on Church Street in Rushford village, is the only living grandchild of David Board.

Mrs. Laura Board used to walk 'cross lots from her home in Podonque to the Methodist Church, wearing her old shoes till she reached the village, when she would exchange them for her "meeting" shoes. Once while on her way to church, she fell and broke a rib, but she went on to meeting, saying nothing about her fall until she returned

## James Kendall

home. On the walls of memory are two pictures of David Board—one of him sitting in one of the front pews of the Methodist Church, the other of him giving a young girl, late in the season, a well preserved russet apple. After all it is the kindly things we remember.

### JAMES KENDALL

H. J. W. G.

JAMES Kendall, of English and Scotch descent, was the grandfather of Hartwell Kendall, Mrs. Antoinette Stacy, Riley Morrison and Henderson Morrison. He lived in West Windsor, Vermont. His wife, Dorothy Tarbell, was a cousin of Abel Tarbell and a niece of Jerusha Tarbell, wife of James Gordon, the Scotchman. T. Jefferson Eddy, a cousin of Emerson Kendall, relates that Aunt Dolly, as Dorothy was called, used to wear a scarlet red cloak when she lived in Vermont. Since the land in Vermont was so stony that they had to sharpen the noses of the sheep so they could feed between the rocks, and since they had heard glowing reports of the Holland Purchase as the "land flowing with milk and honey," in 1816, with an ox team and wagon, James and Dorothy Kendall with eight children set out for the "Promised Land." John Hoyt, who came with them, remained on the "River," but they came on to the hills as fever and ague was prevalent on the Genesee flats. It was the ninth day of June when they left Windsor, Vermont; when they arrived at Caneadea it was the third day of July. They settled in Rushford on lot forty-four, on land now owned by the Kendalls. In the new country they found their way to the village by the blazed trees.



Charles Hanford Kendall

## James Kendall

James Kendall was a man of unusual strength, never sparing himself; once he hitched himself to a load of ashes and started for the ashery when the horse and wagon were going in the same direction. Morton Pratt called him a beech-bruise. He excelled in gardening. In politics he was a Whig; in religion he and his wife were Methodists. Dorothy, his wife, used to burn sulphur on coals to impress her children with a fear of hell. When the circuit rider appeared, the children were always on their good behavior. James Kendall and wife were among the converts to Mormonism; but when they reached Nauvoo, Illinois, they left the Mormons.

Once when Mr. Kendall was felling a tree without a top, it struck his rounded shoulders and he exclaimed, "The Lord have 'marcy' on my soul." He was a restless man, traveling back and forth from the West many times, stopping by the wayside and building a fire for warmth and cooking. When the grandchildren saw a covered wagon heaving in sight, they would exclaim, "Grandpa's coming."

His good wife died when ninety-four years of age. Missing her strong support, the man of ninety-seven years decided to take unto himself another wife. The children objected, as children do, and they wrote to Mrs. Emerson Kendall, asking her to use her influence against the marriage. This she refused to do, saying, "Ninety-seven is just the right age to get married." Before the marriage was consummated, the angel of death overtook him and he was laid to rest in Switzerland County, Indiana.

The children of James and Dorothy Kendall were Fanny (Mrs. John Morrison); James, who, not liking the country, went back to Vermont; Laura (Mrs. James Morrison); Emerson, who was born in 1800 and in 1825 married Amanda Gillette; Harriet (Mrs. David Morrison); Per-



## Rushford Families

melia (Mrs. Chauncey Moore); Lucy (Mrs. Charles Hapgood), and Mary (Mrs. Jonathan Dunham)

The land purchased of the Holland Land Company by James Kendall is now occupied by Hartwell, son of Emerson Kendall, and Charles Hanford, son of Charles B. Kendall. Five generations of Kendalls have lived on this land.

NOTE—John, James and David Morrison were sons of Ephraim Morrison who came to Rushford sometime between 1816 and 1820. James and David lived on lot forty-three; their farms joined and John lived on the crossroad that extended from the Kendall farm on the West Branch road to the Cream Ridge road. John afterwards moved to Indiana. Sullivan Morrison now owns the farm that belonged to his father, James Morrison, and Mrs. Rachel Kilmer owns the one that belonged to her father, David Morrison. Charles Pettit of Hardys is a grandson of John Morrison.

(See Revolutionary record of Ephraim Morrison.)

## DAVID KINNEY

H. J. W. G.

**D**AVID KINNEY and his wife, Mary Williston, in company with Ely Woods and Elijah and Jacob Childs came to Rushford from Windsor, Vermont, in 1816, when Mrs. Kinney was twenty-one years of age. They traveled with an ox team. Mr. Kinney settled on a ten-acre lot back of the Podonque Cemetery, on a road now discarded. Here August 6, 1820, the dinner-horn was blown to announce the birth of a child. They named him Caleb Williston Kinney. He was their only child. Later David Kinney bought a farm on the road north from East Rushford and lived in the second house, now vacant, below George Van Dusen's present home. In this house were born his two grandchildren, Mrs. Mary Kinney Beebe of Arcade, and Ida Kinney (deceased). For a number of

## Daniel Ely

years David Kinney was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church; he afterward joined the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

For his second wife he married the widow Maxwell; in 1859 they moved to Adrian, Michigan, where he died about two years later.

### DANIEL ELY.

Julia Williams Straight

DANIEL ELY was born in Southern Connecticut in 1787. He was of English descent. One of his ancestors came to America in the historic Mayflower in 1620. He was married in 1807. In the course of a couple of years his wife died, leaving him with an infant daughter. Soon after he came to Central New York he met Mrs. May Carrier, a young widow with three children, who had recently come from Massachusetts. She became his wife. They moved to Rushford in 1816 and settled on the farm, in later years owned and occupied by Lyman Metcalf. While there, an Indian family was one of their nearest neighbors, and companies of Indians with their entire household possessions upon their backs frequently passed by on their way to better hunting grounds. Sometimes these companies camped in the neighborhood for a few days. These were awe-inspiring times, at least to the younger members of Mr. Ely's family. He remained on this farm about twelve years. Only a few years ago an apple orchard still remained there, the most of the trees having been grown from seeds brought in Mr. Ely's pocket from his former home. In 1827 he moved to a farm on the road from Rushford to Fairview. Here Mr. Ely lived until

## Rushford Families

about 1852, when he sold his farm to his oldest son, C. C. Ely. About a year later he bought a small place a half mile from Fairview on the road leading to Farmersville Center. Here he resided until his death in August, 1864. After his death his widow lived on the old farm with her son and his family. In 1869 she moved with them to Rushford village (Gordonville), where she died a few years later at the advanced age of ninety years.

Mr. Ely was the father of six children, all but one of whom passed the age of "three-score years and ten." The youngest and only surviving child, Mrs. Cornelia Bixby, is now (1908) eighty-six years of age. For the past few months on account of the infirmities of age she has been an inmate of the home of her nephew, William Ely, at Franklinville. Mr. and Mrs. Ely lived together for more than fifty years, and three of their children, C. C. Ely, Mrs. Sarepta Williams and Mrs. Cornelia Bixby, also passed their golden wedding anniversaries.

## THE GILLETTES

### V. R. Gillette

MY grandfather's name was Seth Gillette, and my father's name was Ezekiel Gillette. The Gillettes came from Connecticut to New York State. In 1817, grandfather moved from Ovid, Seneca County, to Rushford and settled on the hill west of East Rushford, where Colonel Baker now lives. Father, at that time, was eighteen years old, having been born February 2, 1799. He died April 17, 1868. Father had one brother, Linus, who left home when a young man and was never heard from after. He had four sisters, Amanda, who married Emerson Kendall;



Hiram B. Gilbert



Mrs. Hiram B. Gilbert

## Rushford Families

Polly, who married Moses Gillette (he was not related so far as known. Four brothers by the name of Gillette came to America from France); Sylvia, who married Van Lansing Swift; and Elizabeth, who married Lansing Buell and settled in Centerville, Michigan. Father married Lorena Swift, sister of Charles and Heman Swift; she was one of sixteen children.

When I was a year old, mother left me at Grandfather Gillette's, while she went up to Buell's Corners, as then called, to Andre Bennett's to get a tooth pulled. While she was gone, grandfather taught me to walk by reaching out his cane; as I toddled to get hold of it, he would draw it toward him, so I was walking when mother came back.

One day a neighbor, Mrs. Hurlburt, called just before dinner; grandfather invited her to stop with them for dinner. "No," she said, "I am going right home." "Then the more need of it," grandfather replied. She, a little riled, said, "You think I haven't got anything to eat." "O, no; I thought you would need it to help you up the hill;" then she took off her things and staid to dinner.

Grandfather told that he had a calf that did not live through the winter and died in the spring. That went the rounds amongst the neighbors who could not solve the mystery; so he had to tell them that it fell in the spring near the house where they got their drinking water.

Grandfather was a wooden bowl turner, and father went out peddling the bowls. The first night, when he was out on his first trip, he got in too late for supper, so he had a special one. The girl who waited on the table sat down too, and he was so bashful he couldn't eat, so he nearly starved. That taught him to eat when hungry, if there was a pretty girl looking on.

Father said they were at Eneas Gary's to dinner. When



## The Gillettes

Gary was asking the blessing, he heard a crash and, looking up, saw a bull in the garden. "Charles, Charles," he called, "that little darned bull is in the garden; Bony, Bony." The dog didn't wait for his son Charles to open the door, but went right through the window. Then Gary went on and finished his blessing. They all enjoyed the incident.

Grandmother (Anna Warner Gillette) died in 1837. Grandfather lived with us on the old farm until his death in 1853. In 1854 we sold our farm to Washington White.

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Story told by C. B. Kendall, grandson of Seth Gillette.

Some time during the early years of the town of Rushford a partnership was formed between Seth Gillette and Eneas Garv for the manufacture at East Rushford of wooden measures, bowls, covered boxes and such like, called at that time, calamity ware. Mr. Gillette had no team but the mill and its appurtenances belonged to him, so these, with himself and his son "Zeke" were to offset Mr. Gary's team, himself and his son William.

After supplying their own and the near-by towns with the product of their labors they found they still had a quantity of calamities on hand, so they decided to visit other counties to find a market for their ware. In their journeyings they came to Seneca Lake which they decided to ferry across. When about half way over the boat cap-sized and into the lake went passengers and cargo. The boat righted itself and "Zeke" was the first to reach it. He could see no sign of the others except a rope hanging over the side which seemed to be attached to something in the water. He seized it, clambered in and began to pull. First a pair of boots made their appearance, then some blue jean trousers and a butternut colored shirt with his father

## Rushford Families

inside. In the meantime Eneas and his son rose to the surface and swam to the boat. While they were getting grandfather Gillette, spitting and sputtering, over the side into the boat, they managed to understand these words, "I want to go home to mammy, I want to go home to mammy," and "home to mammy" he went, in spite of the protests of Eneas and William, in spite of his habits of thrift, and left the calamities to be gathered in by anyone who wished.

### ASA BENJAMIN

H. J. W. G.

**I**N 1817 Asa Benjamin and his wife, Abigail Swinerton, and their children left Windsor, Vermont, with an ox team and wagon, a horse and a cow. The cow was milked and the surplus milk put into a churn. The jolting did the churning, so they had both butter and milk on the way. In about three weeks they reached Podonque and settled on the farm now occupied by George Neal.

Mr. Benjamin was a shoemaker and stone mason. He made boots and shoes and laid chimneys for his neighbors and they in return worked on his land. He raised flax, and linen sheets, towels and table cloths of various patterns were woven by the family. Miss Gratie Coburn has samples of her mother's weaving marked P. P. B. Mrs. Benjamin was a tailoress of unusual skill. After seeing a suit of clothes on a person she could cut and make a suit like it. Mr. Benjamin had a cider mill to which the farmers brought their apples in the fall, carrying away barrels of cider to be used as a beverage or for vinegar or, if sweet, to be boiled down for cider apple sauce.

In 1817 he was appointed justice of the peace. He

## Elijah Lyman

served seventeen years. His judgment must have been esteemed, since he was frequently called upon to settle disputes. The latch string at his house was always out and if anyone needed help he was taken in. While they were living in Vermont, Oliver Davis, born in Windsor, Vermont, March 12, 1806, was left motherless, so he was taken as their own. It was casting bread upon the waters, since he tenderly cared for them in their declining years. The Red Man appearing at the door and saying, "Me hungry," went away full. Asa Benjamin was a Whig but, although he lived in Podonque, he was not a Methodist. One of the grandchildren remembers the green-covered Bible at the head of grandmother's bed. In Vermont she belonged to a sect called Christians. The sick she visited to minister to their needs. Asa Benjamin died in 1853 when seventy-one years of age. Miss Gratie Colburn, Mrs. A. Fraser and Miss Flora Colburn are his grandchildren who reside in Rushford.

## ELIJAH LYMAN

H. J. W. G.

**E**LIJAH LYMAN, of English and Scotch descent, was born in Weathersfield, Windsor County, Vermont, in 1783. When nineteen years of age he moved with his father to Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. In 1803 he married Prudence Carrier of Hebron, Connecticut. He enlisted in the War of 1812 and started for Buffalo, but hearing of the great victory of the Americans over the British in the Battle of Lake Erie, he returned home. In 1817 he left Lymanville, Pennsylvania, and with his wife and four children, Reuben, Emily (Mrs. Albert Woods), Maranda (Mrs. Aaron Eaton), and Dolly (Mrs. William Bradford),

## Rushford Families

came to Rushford, traveling with an ox team. He settled first on the east road extending north from the present village, but later he purchased the farm on the Creek Road now owned by Frank Gordon, where he spent the remainder of his life. Four children were born in Rushford, Alonzo, Sally (Mrs. Perry Cady), Densmore and Gideon. Gideon bore the name of his grandfather, his great-grandfather and his great-great-grandfather.

Elijah Lyman was a shoemaker. He traveled in Canaan, Belfast and Centerville, carrying his tools with him, staying a week at a house and making boots and shoes for the entire family. The leather was furnished by those for whom he worked. He was also a worker in wood. Like a true-born Yankee, he did not need a turning lathe to make the things he could whittle. His granddaughter, Miss Ellen Lyman, has a rolling-pin made by him with a jackknife. The logs of which his house was made were hewn so as to make smooth walls in the interior.

He was tall, erect, vigorous and active, nervous in temperament and well versed in all the affairs of the day. In religious convictions he was a Methodist. Being very strict in the observance of the Sabbath he would prepare for the Holy Day on Saturday afternoon. Grace was said before each meal, the family being seated, and thanks returned after the meal, the family standing. He loved his country, his home and his family. "Boys," he would say, "be careful not to disgrace your name; it never has been disgraced." The following incident illustrates his quiet determination: He was working on his farm, when a man in an adjoining field commenced whipping his horse, finally he began mauling it with a fence rail. Mr. Lyman could stand it no longer; springing over the fence and calling the man by name he

## The Butterfields

said, "You have whipped that horse enough." The man looked at him and stopped.

Since Mrs. Lyman understood the medicinal properties of plants, she was often called to care for the sick. One of their neighbors being ill, it was understood by Mr. and Mrs. Lyman that if they heard a horn blow they were to come at once. The horn blew, they lighted their perforated tin lintern and following the marked trees went afoot to Fairview.

In the early morning of November 13, 1833, while it was yet dark, Mr. Lyman started for Caneadea with a bag of corn on his shoulders. As he went his way, small shooting stars, which fell like snowflakes, interspersed with balls of fire, the whole followed by luminous trains of wonderful colors, made the most magnificent sight his eyes had ever beheld. He thought perhaps the end of the world had come, but he kept on going to mill. It proved to be a sublime meteoric shower seen all over the United States.

I cannot forbear mentioning the unusual affection existing between the two sons, Alonzo and Densmore, who, having one pocketbook, lived and worked together in harmony until death separated them. Elijah Lyman died in 1871, when eighty-nine years of age.

## THE BUTTERFIELDS

H. J. W. G.

**O**LIVER BUTTERFIELD was born in Granby, Massachusetts, in 1792. Lodensy (Tilly) Butterfield, his wife, was born in the same place in 1793. Two children were born to them in Chesterfield, Massachusetts, Lucinda in 1816, and Lodensy in 1817. About 1818 they all came



## Rushford Families

to Rushford and settled on the Cuba road across from the present English farm. During the winters of 1823, 1824 and 1825 Oliver taught school in a log schoolhouse on or near the farm on the Mount Monroe road, now owned by Reuben Lewis. F. E. Hammond of Cuba has in his possession one of his father's writing books, the copies of which were set by Oliver Butterfield. He was one of the first music teachers in town. In 1821 he was chosen chorister in the Baptist Church. Five more children, Electa, Jerusha, Louisa, Lucina and Minerva, were born in Rushford. He then had seven daughters all of whom became Spiritualists and nearly all of whom were school teachers.

He moved with his family to a farm near the eastern line of the town of Cuba, adjoining Friendship. Afterward he and his wife went with their daughter, Lodensy, and her husband, David Scott, to Lake Mills, Wisconsin, where they both died in 1854, the first summer after their removal. Lodensy Butterfield Scott was the mother of Mrs. F. E. Hammond and Cora L. V. Richmond, a noted writer and lecturer on Spiritualism and pastor of a church in Chicago, Illinois, the only Spiritualist church in existence. Jerusha (Butterfield) Vreeland was the mother of Oliver Vreeland, now dead, but for many years Judge of the County Court of Cattaraugus County. He was a graduate of the old Rushford Academy. Another son of Mrs. Vreeland is the Hon. Edward B. Vreeland, now a Congressman from the Thirty-seventh District of New York State.

Not long after Oliver Butterfield settled in Rushford his mother, Hannah, a widow of Solomon Butterfield, came with her children from Chesterfield, Massachusetts, and settled on the farm now owned by Reuben Lewis. The children of Solomon and Hannah (Giddings) Butterfield were: Oliver; Elijah, born at Westhampton, Massachu-

## The Butterfields

setts, in 1796, died at Cuba, N. Y., in 1848; Electa, born at Westhampton, Massachusetts, in 1798; Clarissa, born at Chesterfield, Massachusetts, in 1805, died in Pennsylvania; Eli, born at Chesterfield, Massachusetts, 1808, died in New Hudson; Horace, born at Chesterfield, Massachusetts, in 1811, died at Portville, New York. Electa married Charles Swift, Jr., Clarissa married Salmon Chamberlain, and Eliza married John Hammond. Mrs. Alice (Williams) Brecht, teacher of vocal music in the Rushford Union School in 1900-1901, is a descendant of Solomon and Hannah Butterfield.

The following story is told by Hon. Edward B. Vreeland: "Just at the commencement of the Civil War my father (Simon Vreeland) bought the Salmon Chamberlain farm about three miles from Rushford village. I can just remember it as a very small boy. When the time for making the first yearly payment came around, my father drew from the Cuba National Bank the money he had saved up during the year to make the payment. The bank paid him in greenbacks, the first that had been seen in Allegany County. When these were tendered in payment to Mr. Chamberlain, he strongly objected to receiving them, insisting that they had no value, that the result of accepting them would be to cheat him out of his farm. The result of it was that he paid back to my father the money that had been paid him on the purchase price and we moved back to Cuba, so I came very near being brought up near the village of Rushford."

## Rushford Families

### CHARLES HAPGOOD

Emer Corse

CHARLES HAPGOOD was born in Reading, Vermont, in 1790. He married in Rushford, November 5, 1820, Lucy, daughter of James Kendall. They lived many years on the West Branch road on the farm now owned by Riley Morrison, about a mile and a half from the village. To them were born seven children. Harrison, born in Rushford, November 5, 1824, married Adaline, daughter of Nathan C. Kimball, and after her death married, May 30, 1868, Mrs. Aristone (Charles) Bannister; Harriet married Perry Corse; she died when thirty-two years of age, leaving three young children; Emily married William Emerson; Dexter married Julia Corse and removed to Chautauqua County; Charles, Jr., who remained single, lived in Rochester; Jane married George Williams and in the latter part of her life lived in Battle Creek, Michigan; Washington married Anna Bishop. Charles Hapgood died November 4, 1847. Two of his grandchildren, Emer and Elbert Corse, live in Rushford.

### THE TAYLORS

SILAS TAYLOR and Lydia Towne, both of Granby, Massachusetts, were married in South Hadley, Massachusetts, April 1, 1790. The children of Silas and Lydia Taylor were Ozial, Justus, Allen, Clarissa, Roxanna, all born in Granby, Massachusetts; Roland, born in Connecticut; Zebina, born in Brookfield, Vermont; and Alzina, Ma-

NOTE—The matter for this sketch was taken largely from the "History of John Taylor" by Elbert O. Taylor.

## The Taylors

rilla and George, probably born in Wilbraham, Massachusetts.

Allen was the first of the Taylor family to "go West." A little before 1820, he started for the "Holland Purchase," a tract of land in Western New York which in 1800 had been opened for settlement. He made the journey on foot, and located a piece of land, known as lot 40, in the town of Rushford. Shortly after, he returned to Massachusetts, selling out his interest to a Mr. Hall, who built a house on the eastern half of the lot, occupying it, however, but a short time. In the spring of 1820, Ozial, then twenty-eight years of age, with but seven or eight dollars in his pocket, set out for the same place, footing it all the way, except when he could catch a ride. Upon his arrival he had only seventy-five cents left. With this he bought an ax and commenced clearing the western half of lot 40, where he built a log house. After living alone in it for several years, one of his sisters came from the East and kept house for him until her marriage. In 1823 Zebina came, having walked nearly all the way, as the others had done. He lived with Ozial two or three years, then returned to Massachusetts; but in October, 1828, he and Allen, with their wives, and Riley made the journey, traveling with horses and wagons. Allen took back the land left by Mr. Hall, and Zebina located a little farther west. About 1830, Ozial returned to Massachusetts for his father and mother, Lydia and Silas, who lived with him until their deaths. About the time of Lydia's death, which occurred December 18, 1833, Roxanna and her husband, Laartus Fuller, came.

These plucky pioneers chopped and cleared their lands, exchanging work to get oxen to do their logging, made potash and raised young cattle, thus paying the Holland Land Company in instalments for their homes. Ozial, Allen,

## Rushford Families

Zebina, Justus and George of Silas' sons, and Benoni, a half-brother of Silas, Riley and David, sons of Benoni, all lived at various times in one neighborhood, which came to be and still known as "Taylor Hill." Plin A. Taylor and his son, Roy, and Verner, Irwin and Elmer, sons of Edwin Taylor, are the Taylors now living on Taylor Hill. In 1877, Ansel M. Taylor moved from the old homestead to Rushford village where he engaged in mercantile business. He was a loyal and influential member of the Baptist Church, and a public-spirited man in the community. Plin A. Taylor, son of Allen, and Edwin Taylor, son of Zebina, are the only Taylors of their generation living in Rushford. Frank L. Taylor, son of Ansel M., and Dell, son of Philo, live on West Main Street in Rushford village.

### B. T. HAPGOOD AND FAMILY

#### H. J. W. G.

ABOUT the year 1821, Bates Turner Hapgood came from Windsor, Vermont, to Rushford. For a time he was in the employ of James McCall but it was not long before he opened a store and, being a man of good judgment and upright character he was prosperous in business. He purchased land on the west side of Lower Street not far from the bridge. The white house with green blinds and Greek columns, now owned by Dr. Fred C. Ballard, was built by him and was his home for many years. The balustrade which once adorned the roof has long since been removed.

In 1821 Mr. Hapgood was baptized by a missionary and joined the First Baptist Church in Rushford. In 1847 he was chosen deacon, having previously served his church



## B. T. Hapgood and Family

as clerk. Being interested in educational matters, he was made president of the board of trustees when the Rushford Academy was organized in 1852.

January 25, 1826, Bates T. Hapgood was united in marriage to Alzina Taylor, sister of Ozial Taylor. Lucia C., born March 27, 1831, was the only child of Bates Turner and Alzina Hapgood who lived to maturity. She became the wife of Orrin T. Higgins of Rushford, a man of pleasing address and fine business ability. By mercantile business begun in Rushford and later extended to other towns and by investments in timber land in several Western States, he accumulated a large property.

Mrs. Higgins was a woman of engaging social qualities. Her ready wit is illustrated by the following anecdote. A doctor from the West was visiting in Rushford. As he sat in the stores, he entertained people by telling stories. He said, among other things, that he had performed eight amputations of the leg in one day. "Was there a railroad accident?" inquired a physician present. "Oh, no," was the reply. Mrs. Higgins in making a journey through the West stopped at the place where the doctor lived. Upon her return, as a well known physician was passing the house, she ran out to the gate to tell him of her trip, saying that she had visited at the home of this doctor. "How large is the place where he lives?" inquired the physician. "Oh, it's about the size of East Rushford," said Mrs. Higgins, "but I noticed a peculiarity about the inhabitants—nearly every man had but one leg." When the Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was held in Rushford in October, 1863, Mr. and Mrs. Higgins entertained the renowned Bishop Simpson. The pleasure must have been mutual, since a friendly correspondence ensued.

The children of Orrin T. and Lucia C. Higgins were,

## Rushford Families

a child who died in infancy, Clara Alzina Hapgood who married Frank S. Smith of Angelica, and Frank Wayland who was born in Rushford, August 18, 1856. Frank Wayland Higgins was educated at the Rushford Union School, the Riverview Military Academy at Poughkeepsie and a Commercial College at Binghamton. While in business in Michigan, he married Katherine C. Nobles, daughter of Mrs. Aldura Bell Nobles, who formerly lived in Rushford. Soon after his marriage he removed to Olean, New York, where he resided until his death in 1907. His successes were not simply those of the merchant or banker. He served nine years as State Senator from the Fiftieth District, two years as Lieutenant-Governor, and in 1904 was elected Governor of New York State. In a letter dated December 7, 1904, R. C. Grames, Methodist minister, wrote the following: "Having a knowledge of Frank W. Higgins in his boyhood home, Rushford, and in his present home, Olean, for once in my life I turned aside from a straight Prohibition ticket, deeming it a privilege to help elect a man who will, I believe, govern this great State in fidelity and integrity and for the best interests of the people." A lady who highly esteemed the late Governor Higgins, said that whenever he did her a favor, it was with so gracious a manner that it seemed as if he were the one who was being favored. On his fiftieth birthday Governor Higgins had a desire to visit the place of his birth, so, with two of his friends, he came in an automobile to Rushford. A picture taken at the time shows him standing on the steps of the house where he was born. This was his last visit to his native town.

Bates Turner Hapgood, Alzina (Taylor) Hapgood, Lucia (Hapgood) Higgins and Orrin Thrall Higgins are all buried in the Rushford Cemetery.

## THE TARBELLS

H. J. W. G.

**A**BOUT 1854 Thomas Tarbell, the fifth in line of descent by that name, with his wife, Esther (Smith) Tarbell, and six children, the youngest of whom was Jerusha (Mrs. James Gordon), moved from Groton, Massachusetts, to Mason, New Hampshire, where three other children were born. The youngest of these was Edward who, in Townsend, Massachusetts, December 14, 1786, married Rachel Hildreth. Many years of the married life of Edward and Rachel Tarbell were passed in Mason, New Hampshire, where, probably, all of their eleven children were born. Later they moved to Cavendish, Vermont.

In 1820, two of their sons, James, a married man, and Abel, a boy of eighteen, left Cavendish, Vermont, for the Holland Purchase, with their belongings on a wood-shod sled drawn by a pair of steers. Since the journey was long, the steers became foot-sore, lying down whenever James and Abel stopped to talk with people by the way. When they arrived at Rushford, they had only a shilling between them. This they soon spent, then they went to work. They settled on lot fifty-two, about a mile and a half west of the village. The land is now owned by M. M. Tarbell. In 1824 their father and mother and brother Joseph and sister Lucy came and lived with Abel, who at this time was unmarried. In after years Abel used to tell of lumbering on the Baptist lot during the day and then cutting three-foot wood for the fireplace at night.

Abel Tarbell married in Farmersville, New York, Julia Mills, who was born in Livermore, Maine, August 10, 1801. Their children were: Nelson, born in 1826; Mary (Mrs. Hosea B. Persons); Emeline (Mrs. William Babbitt); Amelia (Mrs. Igel Peck); Louis;

## Rushford Families

Myra (Mrs. Quincy Chamberlain); and Miles M., who was born in 1840. Nelson married Lucinda, daughter of Salmon Chamberlain. Louis remained single. Miles married Elsie, daughter of Alonzo Farwell; after her death he married Janette, daughter of John W. Hill; she died in November, 1874; he afterwards married Julia Bosworth, daughter of Emory Bosworth of Belmont. The sons of Abel and Julia Tarbell were farmers and the daughters became the wives of farmers. At one time in their early married life, Mary, Emeline and Amelia all lived in the Cream Ridge school district. In 1881 Miles M. purchased the Tarbell House of which he is now the proprietor. He and Myra, who lives with her son at Farmers Valley, Pennsylvania, are the only living children. Nelson died in Cuba, Emeline in Dunkirk, and Mary, Amelia and Louis in Rushford.

Abel Tarbell and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1821 Mrs. James Tarbell and her two children came from Vermont to Rushford where Dana was born. Not long after, James Tarbell and his family settled in Farmersville. One of his grandchildren, Mrs. W. W. Merrill, daughter of Dana, lives in Rushford.

Four sisters of James and Abel Tarbell, Amelia (Mrs. Newberry Eddy), Edith (Mrs. Nahum Ames), Sally (Mrs. Asa Brooks), and Lucy (Mrs. Matthew P. Cady), settled in Rushford; the other sisters, Mrs. Betsy Wright and Mrs. Rachel Hardy, remained in Vermont.

The youngest descendant of Abel Tarbell, by the name of Tarbell, living in Rushford, is Theodore Hyde, son of another Abel Tarbell.

## CHAPMAN BROOKS

H. J. W. G.

CHAPMAN BROOKS was born in Paris, Oneida County, October 9, 1799. In 1820, through the influence of Dr. Horatio Smith, he came to Rushford, coming afoot with a pack on his back. His first meal in town, which he ate at Ephraim White's on the hill this side of East Rushford, consisted of hulled corn and molasses. In 1821 he married Maria Roberts of Otisco, Onondaga County. They went on their wedding trip in a lumber wagon to Rushford, where they commenced housekeeping in a log house on the Cream Ridge road. This house had two large doors opposite. They were surprised one day to see an Indian with a deer on his shoulders passing through the house. Since Mr. Brooks, when teaching school, left home Monday morning and the neighbors were far away, sometimes Mrs. Brooks would not see a person to speak with until her husband returned Saturday night.

Five children were born to them, Caroline (Mrs. Dr. W. B. Alley), Cynthia (Mrs. C. W. Woodworth), Mary J. (Mrs. S. R. Remington), Homer, who married Philinda, daughter of Elihu Talcott, Amelia (Mrs. D. Atkins). On this side of the hill south of the village where there is an old orchard and where roses bloom, Mrs. Woodworth was born in a log house. Homer Brooks was born April 22, 1840, in the Brooks Hotel, now the Tarbell House, which his father kept a number of years. Mrs. Brooks used to tell with pride that she had baked a barrel of flour in one day. Mrs. Alley and Mrs. Atkins are living in Nunda, Mrs. Remington in Topeka, Kansas, and Homer Brooks in Rushford. Mrs. Woodworth died in Rushford in 1902.

When Mr. Brooks considered himself still a middle aged man, some one said to him, "Uncle Chapman." He





Cynthia A. Woodworth

## The Searls

did not look up. Again, "Uncle Chapman." Still he did not look up. "Mr. Brooks." Then he heard. He was justice of the peace many years. His mental powers were good and with opportunity he would have made a scholar. He died in Rushford in 1880.

### THE SEARLS.

H. J. W. G.

**D**AVID SEARL was born in Rowley, Massachusetts, September 5, 1776. July 20, 1787, he married Judith Cragin of Temple, New Hampshire. Here three of their children were born. In 1791 they moved to Cavendish, Vermont, where fourteen other children were born to them. About 1814 David Searl with three children, David, Dolly and Lucy, set out for the Genesee country; they reached Centerville, New York, and made their home on the top of Hamilton Hill. The next year the remaining members of the family came to Centerville. They lived here until 1823 when Mr. Searl bought improved property in Rushford. His land was on Lower Street extending from Main Street south to the Chase farm, the boundary line of which was between what are now the residences of George Gant and Frank E. White. The Searls family lived in one of the first framed houses in the village. A part of this house is now a part of the dwelling of W. F. Benjamin, and it was built by Elder Warren Bannister. Later, on the east side of the street farther south, Mr. Searl built a house and shoeshop combined, back of which on land now owned by Miss Ellen Lyman, he had a tannery. He donated the land for the First Burying Ground in Rushford, reserving a right of way from West Main Street near

## Rushford Families

the big elm. The deed of this property from David and Judith Searl to David Searl, Horatio Smith and Matthew P. Cady, trustees, bears the date May 1, 1832.

David Searl and his wife returned to Centerville. He and his neighbor, James Tubbs, were both deaf in their later years. They used to meet at the line fence, and of course talked very loud. Afterwards Mr. Searl would say that he and Uncle Jimmy had been talking privacy. David Searl died February 4, 1854, and Judith Searl December 16, 1859, at ninety-two years of age.

Seventeen children were born to David and Judith Searl, two of whom died in infancy. Sarah married Lawson Hoyt of Connecticut. Dolly married Packard Bruce, one of the pioneers of Centerville. They were the parents of Mrs. Henry M. Teller, who was once a student in Rushford Academy. Salome married Justice Dayton of Canaan. Saphronia married Rufus Adams. Alfred and David died at two years of age. Mary and Judith remained single. Jeremy remained single; he is buried at Centerville. Nancy Harriet married Harry W. Bullock of Belvidere; she died in 1831. Lucy married Milton McCall. David, 2nd, married Emily, sister of Milton McCall. Daniel H. married Julia Lasell of Centerville. Steadman B. married Olive Lasell of Centerville. John D. V. died in 1830 at the age of twenty-four. David, 2nd, and his wife joined the Baptist Church in 1825. Steadman Searl and Lucy Searl McCall were also members of that church. The father and mother, Mary, Judith, Nancy Harriet, Lucy, John and Olive, wife of Steadman, are buried in the First Burying Ground in Rushford.

Daniel H. Searl was born in Cavendish, Vermont, February 22, 1804. At first he was connected with his father in the shoe shop and tannery; later he conducted the busi-

## Samuel White

ness alone. James Green was foreman of his shop in 1832, followed by John Doland in 1840. Mr. Searl sold his land to Washington White. In a *Republican Era* of November, 1847, D. H. Searl advertises "Boots, Shoes and Clothing for sale in No. 5 Union Block at Rushford." About 1852 he purchased the Oramel Griffin corner and carried on merchant tailoring for a few years. He was a far-seeing man. In the fifties he prophesied the steam harvester and the automobile. The Searls were prominent in the development of the town

NOTE—In writing the Searl paper I am indebted to Mrs. Harriet Searl Haskins and Mrs. Augusta Searl Sheldon.—H. J. W. G.

## SAMUEL WHITE

Helen J. White Gilbert

**S**AMUEL WHITE, son of Thomas and Betsey (Lincoln) White, was born on his father's farm in Cavendish, Vermont, January 16, 1795. Percy Snow was born November 8, 1797. She lived in a part of Cavendish called Whitesville. Samuel White and Percy Snow were married, or, as Homer White of Randolph, Vermont, once said, "Snow was made White," November 26, 1818. In the fall of 1821, with two small children, Washington and Henry Kirke, they left Cavendish for the Holland Purchase. After reaching Rushford they purchased seventy-five acres of land on the east side of Upper Street, portions of which are now owned by Ida (White) Woods of Rushford and Newell White of East Aurora, grandchildren of Samuel White.

The house which he built by degrees is in part occupied by Mrs. Jane White and her daughter, Jennie. In the early day it was of New England fashion, with a long sloping back roof, a large hall in the center and small window

## Rushford Families



Frank E. White and Sons, Thomas and Robert

lights. It was painted red, trimmed with white, and had green blinds. Stone steps led from the street to the front door and in the narrow front yard were balsam trees. It is said that in this house he kept store and kept tavern, a favorite occupation of the early settlers.

The first schoolhouse in town was a log building which stood where the store of F. H. Metcalf and Company now stands. It was here that Samuel White, the teacher, said to a strapping boy, "Take off your coat, sir!" Someone has said that nothing has made so many boys smart as the black birch of New England. Wilson Gordon of Topeka says that Samuel White was the best mathematician in town. His



## Samuel White

name appears as a surveyor in the town records of Rushford of the year 1822. He framed the Academy and all but one of the churches in the village. Six years he was supervisor of the town, having been elected the first time in 1826. He was justice of the peace so many years that he was usually spoken of as "Square" White. More than anywhere else one could find Samuel White seated before a large desk writing. Among the papers which he left is a letter with regard to two Revolutionary pension claims. It is dated July 21, 1854, and signed by Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War.

How fond he was of children! One of his grandchildren recalls with pleasure the following little incident: Arlie,\* Frank† and George§ were standing back of a chair, playing they were calves, and grandpa with a bowl of bread and milk was feeding them between the slats. When grandma said, "You'll spill that milk feeding them in here," he answered, "No, I won't," and on he kept. When Henry brought home his young bride, Marena Sears, the mother, an embodiment of New England thrift, started them in life with this advice, "You must make one hand wash the other." In speaking of washing machines Mr. White once said, "In the old times they had washing machines that could scold." When the grist mill at East Rushford burned, Mr. White with many others took his pail and went to the fire. The next morning when the family were speaking of the fire he said, "What fire?" To their surprise he knew nothing of having been out the night before.

The foundry that stood on the corner of Main and Church Streets, next to Mrs. Laning's, was erected in 1844 by James and Luther Gordon, but during almost its entire

\*Mrs. Arlie White Ives.

†F. E. White.

§George Blanchard.



Henry Kirke White

## Samuel White

existence it was owned by one or more members of the White family. Samuel White had the first cider mill in town. His second cider mill was built on the hillside back of H. K. White's (now Mrs. D. W. Woods') house. In the upper part of the mill were two upright wooden cylinders, on one of which were knobs fitting loosely into holes in the other. Between these cylinders, which worked in opposite directions, the apples were crushed, the pomace falling into a large shallow vat. A horse walking in a circle around the vat, moved the lever which turned the motor wheel. In the lower part of the mill was a grooved platform on which straw was placed, then a layer of pomace, then straw, and so on till the cheese was about three feet high. A board cover was then placed on top and the mass pressed by means of blocks, a screw and a hand lever, until all the juice had trickled into the tub below. The cider was then barrelled and drawn away by the farmers who had brought their apples to be ground.

Not long since a man spoke of Oliver Benjamin, E. P. Richards, James Green and Samuel White, supporters of the Universalist Church, as men noted for uprightness of character. Samuel White was too honest to trade horses. He would bring a rack-a-bones into the yard and take it away fat, to return with another hungry horse. Since he was extremely hospitable, no one was ever in his house about meal time without being urged to stay to the meal. Although he was temperate in all things, the pitcher of cider was always on the bureau, near his compass, and each caller was asked to partake. This was courtesy.

He used to say that he was one-quarter Irish. He might have said that his grandfather, Samuel White, was a Revolutionary captain, that he was descended from one William White, a Mayflower pilgrim and that John White,

## Rushford Families

a bishop in the Church of England, was an ancestor of his, but he did not, he was a modest man. I can see him now, short, square-built, dignified, kindly. How I love to do him honor!

Samuel White died May 15, 1874, and Percy White died September 20, 1875. Four of their children were born in Rushford, Quincy in 1823, Thomas Jefferson in 1826, Ellen in 1831, and Stellah in 1835. Washington White and Abigail Willard were married by the Rev. C. W. Gillam, at the home of Joel Griffin, January 25, 1844. Washington was for many years a merchant in Rushford. He, with Congdon and Dickinson, built the Concrete Block. Henry White and Marena Sears were married at the home of Elmer Sears in Great Valley, July 16, 1843. Quincy White and Emily Blanchard were married by the Rev. Mr. Lord, October 23, 1851. After the death of Emily, Quincy married, September 10, 1862, Jane Blanchard, a cousin of his first wife. For many years he and Barnes Blanchard owned the foundry. Stellah married Barnes Blanchard, July 18, 1855. Henry, Quincy and Stellah lived nearly all their lives on the street on which they were born. Thomas married Adaline Swift, June 21, 1856. He died in the Civil War. Ellen married John A. Hubbell, May 13, 1856. She now lives in Oklahoma and is the only surviving child of Samuel and Percy White. The other children all died in Rushford, Washington in 1889, Quincy the same year, Henry Kirke in 1894, and Stellah in 1900.

## THE GRIFFINS

H. J. W. G.

**O**RAMEL GRIFFIN, son of Joel and Submit Griffin, was born in Swanton, Vermont, March 26, 1794. In early life he removed with his parents to Malone, then in

## The Griffins

St. Lawrence County, where he experienced the struggles incident to a pioneer life. After laboring all day he would study at night by the light of burning chips. On reaching maturity he started out to seek his fortune, commencing in Moscow, Livingston County, where he was first a clerk, then a teacher, and finally a partner of one of his employers. In 1822 he opened, in a log building, the second store in Rushford.

For a time he boarded at Cephas Young's tavern where he was taken ill and was nursed by Miss Caroline Gary, daughter of Eneas Gary, who afterwards became his wife. Mrs. Griffin died February, 1848, leaving in his care three children, Lovina, Solon W., and Jackson. Mr. Griffin never married again. When Mr. H. B. Ackerly was a boy he went with his mother to Oramel Griffin's store. Hearing music he asked his mother what it was. "It's a piano," she replied. It belonged to Miss Achsah Griffin, daughter of Oramel Griffin, and was the first piano brought into town.

In 1848 Mr. Griffin seemed to be preparing to leave Rushford as he wished all notes and accounts to be paid, and advertised for sale "his valuable property on the corner of Main and Commercial Streets in the village of Rushford, consisting of a store and dwelling house attached, a store house, two dwelling houses, an office, barns, and lots of about one-fourth acre each." About 1850 he made a large purchase of land in the town of Caneadea and moved to Oramel, a place named in his honor, which sprang up as if by magic on the Genesee Valley Canal of which it was for some time a terminus. Later in life he was engaged in business operations in the Western States where three of his four children settled.

Mr. Griffin was an energetic and successful business man, able to help those less favored than he. He was



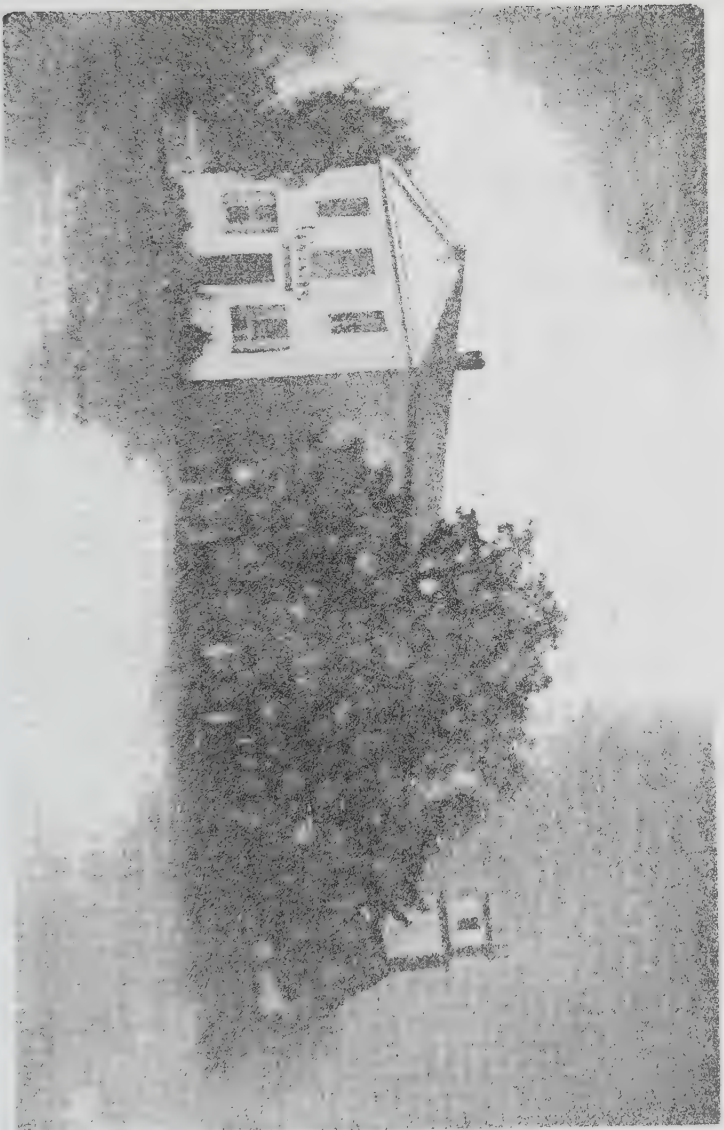
## Rushford Families

also a liberal contributor to public institutions. After he retired from business he resided during the winter of each year with his daughter Lovina (Mrs. George Prentis) at Detroit, Michigan, and during the summer with his daughter Achsah (Mrs. Marshall B. Champlain) at Cuba, Allegany County, where he died September 5, 1877.

### JOEL GRIFFIN, JR.

Joel Griffin, Jr., brother of Oramel, was born in 1800. In 1838 or 1839 he and his wife, Clarissa, with their only child, Wolcott, moved from Malone, now in Franklin County, to Rushford. They lived at first on the west side of Upper Street across the road from Samuel White's. The house was afterward owned and occupied by James Wier. By occupation Joel Griffin, Jr., was a small farmer and produce dealer. In 1864 Wolcott Griffin was engaged in the mercantile business on the corner of Main and Lower Streets. The back room of his store where his father had stored some honey, went down the stream at the time of the flood. That night he called his father and told him that the lower part of the town was all being washed away. "Is my honey safe?" was the reply. Clarissa Griffin lived in Rushford until her death, October 16, 1869. Joel Griffin, Jr., died in Michigan, April 22, 1871.

Wolcott Griffin married for his first wife, Rosina G. Bush of Pike, daughter of Alexander Bush. She was the mother of his only child, Ella. He was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and at one time superintendent of the Sunday School. In 1870 he moved to Michigan where he passed the remainder of his life, dying May 4, 1892.



Store Built by Ormel Griffin

Behind the trees, is the attached dwelling and lobby is the steeple of the old Methodist Church. The name over the door is A. W. Co by (The picture was loaned by Mrs. Harriet Searl Haskins)

## Rushford Families

### GEORGE SCOTT

H. J. W. G.

GEORGE SCOTT, born February 9, 1795, was the son of Calvin Scott, a doctor, who lived in Belchertown, Massachusetts, and had slaves to do his bidding, both indoors and out. With his fair complexion and sharp blue eyes, George Scott was a fine looking young man. February 22, 1821, he and Mariah Converse were married. In two years he set out for the Holland Purchase, leaving behind him his wife and two young children, George and Calvin. With the assistance of Lowell Wright, they soon followed Mr. Scott to Rushford and settled on the "Old Injun Road" long since discarded. (It extended from the Cuba road to the West Branch road.) On the farm of the Ackerly Company there is a clearing of about twelve acres which, until recently, was surrounded by woods and known as the Lowell Wright clearing. It was on the "Old Injun Road." From this place George Scott moved to the Amos Rose farm, now owned by Walter Howard. Later he moved to Taylor Hill, south of the Six Corners. Eight children were born to George and Mariah Scott in Rushford: Laura (Mrs. Elisha Straight), 1824; Dwight, 1826; Martha Malona (Mrs. Wm. Drake), 1828; Emeline (Mrs. Thomas Dunlap), 1830; Lyman L., 1832; John, 1836; Jason, 1840; and Henry, 1842. Mr. Scott's brother William always lived with him.

George Scott had a running horse that could not be beat. The race course was Lower Street and the rider Henry Kirke White. Some men came from a distance to purchase the horse. They thought Mr. Scott asked too much so they invited him down town, thinking that if they treated him the horse would be cheaper, but instead he

## George Scott

came up ten dollars. They treated him again and he came up ten dollars more. When someone was laughing at him because he did not have any wood split he replied, "It's a mighty lazy man that can't get up in the morning and split enough wood for his wife to get breakfast." After a general training he was on a horse with another man to ride home; when the horse commenced to kick up, "Go on," he said, "my end's going."

No one in all the country round could draw forth from a violin such strains of music as George Scott. The instrument would almost speak under his touch. He frequently played for dances. He played upon the violin at the weddings of Alvin Frost and Sally Bosworth, Thursa Frost and George Scott, Jr., and Margaret Scott and Marcus Eaton, enlivening with his music the weddings of three generations. The jaw-breaking names of the Holland Land Company were set to music and sung by him.

Four of his children are now living, Henry in New Hudson, Jason in Troy, Michigan, Lyman in Canandaigua, and Dwight in Rushford. George Scott lived to be eighty-one years old and his wife nearly ninety-one. They are buried in the Bellville Cemetery. The grandchildren of George and Mariah Scott living in Rushford are: Mrs. Margaret Eaton and Milton Scott, children of George; Mrs. Minnie Cooper, Mrs. Bertha Hogg and Jason Scott, children of Dwight; and Mrs. Belle (Dunlap) Lafferty.

NOTE—George Scott, Sr., sold his farm on the Cuba road to Daniel Baird who in turn sold it to Robert Morrow.

## Rushford Families

CHARLES WHITE

H. J. W. G.

CHARLES WHITE, son of Thomas and Betsy (Lincoln)\* White, and grandson of Capt. Samuel and Thankful (Gilbert) White, was born on his father's farm in Cavendish, Vermont, in September, 1800. He and his brother Samuel were the only children of his father's family who settled in Rushford. In 1825 he married Harriet Sophia Swift, daughter of Heman and Ann Swift. In October, 1831, Charles White was baptized by Elder Absalom Miner and received into the First Baptist Church of Rushford. His wife, Harriet, joined this church at the same time, having previously been a member of the Freewill Baptist Church. At the seventy-fifth anniversary of the organization of the First Baptist Church, "Aunt Harriet" was present and made some remarks, since she had been a member of the church fifty-nine years. She was a helpful, sweet-faced woman whom everybody loved.

The children of Charles and Harriet White were Sophia (Mrs. Ebenezer Perry), George, Luther, Otis, Martin and Percy (Mrs. Jacob S. Van Dusen).

In the forties Charles White and family were living in the English district on the Mt. Monroe road. On the run about a quarter of a mile south of the schoolhouse, was his cooper shop. His house was on the high land twenty rods north of the shop.

Charles White died at East Rushford, February 16, 1857. Harriet White died in Podonque at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. S. Van Dusen, September 1, 1892.

Sophia White Perry died in Wisconsin in 1860, when

\*The descendants of Betsey (Lincoln) White are distantly related to Abraham Lincoln.





Mrs. Harriet Swift White

## Rushford Families

thirty-four years of age. George White married Ann English in 1850. In 1850 he was running a blacksmith shop on Upper Street in Rushford. The next year he went to Wisconsin where he remained until 1906, when he and his wife returned to Rushford where he died in October, 1909, at the home of Victoria Gordon. Luther married Achsah Chamberlain. After her death, he married Kate Van Dusen. Of her the Rev. Mark Kelley once said, "Very often there rises before me the picture of Sister Kate White speaking in prayer or class meeting. More than once did she overcome by the word of her testimony, and in my soul, at least, 'she being dead, yet speaketh.'" Luther White was a blacksmith and lived in Rushford on Upper Street, in the house now owned by Irving Claus. Otis married Julia Van Dusen. For a number of years they lived on his farm in East Rushford. The latter part of his life he was a Wesleyan Methodist minister. Martin died in the Civil War.

Ione, William, Charles and George Van Dusen are the only grandchildren of Charles and Harriet White now living in Rushford.

## JOSEPH BELL

Mary Bell Dickey

**J**OSEPH BELL, the youngest of the twelve children of Jonathan and Deborah Bell, was born in Goffstown, New Hampshire, August 10, 1805. His father fought in the battle of Bunker Hill and did other service in the War of the Revolution. Joseph Bell, when a lad, was apprenticed to learn the shoemaker's trade in Manchester, New Hampshire. At the age of nineteen he started for New

## Joseph Bell

York State where his brothers, Russell and Rodney, had already settled in New Hudson. At Rochester he was offered a hundred acres of land for his horse, but he refused the offer and continued his journey to Rushford where he soon found employment.

In 1830 he married Lydia Elvira Dunham to whom were born the following children: Minerva M., Martin A., William R., Lois A., James J. and Lauraette, whose death at the age of three years, March 15, 1843, was the first in the family. The mother died March 22, 1849, just after moving into the new house. September 14, 1851, Mr. Bell was married to Matilda Coburn at the home of her brother, Miner Coburn, in Covert, New York, by the Rev. Chauncey Wardner, who had formerly been pastor at Rushford. To them were born two children, Mary C. and Nellie E.

When Mr. Bell first came to Rushford he was employed in a shoemaker's shop, later he became a partner and finally sole owner of the business. Many pairs of boots with red morocco tops, at five dollars a pair, were made in his shop in the chambers of the old town hall. By severe toil and close economy he built up a prosperous business. Beside his shoeshop, he managed his farm, which he bought of Samson Hardy, and his tannery. At first the bark used in the tannery was ground by hand, afterwards horse power was used and finally, in 1849, steam was put in. Some years later, the townspeople, by subscription put in a steam whistle which was blown three times a day and in case of fire. November 29, 1867, his youngest son, James J., was killed by an explosion of the boiler in the tannery. A. J. Colburn then bought an interest in the tannery and it was repaired and enlarged.

Mr. Bell bought a great many hides, and frequently made trips to the West for them. At the beginning of the

## Rushford Families

cheese industry, he often went to Canada, bought cows and drove them home. In 1872 Mr. Bell with his wife and younger children moved to Michigan. He first located in Ionia. Afterwards he went into the mercantile business in Maple Rapids. While he lived in Ionia, Mr. O. T. Higgins of Rushford and Mr. D. B. Sill of Cuba visited him, after taking a trip into the pine woods of Northern Michigan buying land. On this trip Mr. Higgins and his guide were lost in the woods for several days. He said that the bountiful dinner of which he was then partaking did not taste as good as his meal in the woods during those days of short rations, when he held hard-tack under a piece of pork to catch the drippings.

But nothing could wean Mr. Bell from the associations of former days, so after a residence of five years in Michigan, he returned to his home in Rushford where he passed his declining years among his friends and relatives, whom he was so fond of entertaining at his home. The old-time hospitality was often mentioned by him as one of the pleasant features of his early days, and emphasized by the statement that at one time he was acquainted with every man in the township.

He was early associated with the Baptist Church of Rushford. He was baptized in the spring of 1838, in a hole cut in the ice in the creek back of the tannery. For forty-five years he was a faithful member of the church and gave very substantially to its support. In politics Mr. Bell was an Abolitionist and also a great admirer of Mr. Cole of Wellsville, "the father of the Republican party." During the war a group of men, including Mr. John Holmes, Mr. Latham Higgins, Deacon Hapgood and Mr. Bell, used to gather at the store of Mr. O. T. Higgins where Deacon Hapgood read aloud the war news in the *New York Daily*

## Rufus Adams

*Tribune.* This meeting was laughingly called the "Congress."

For two years prior to his death Mr. Bell's health gradually failed, and he died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Lois Ferguson, in Geneseo, October 3, 1883, while on his way to Avon for treatment. His life was full of vicissitudes, such as are common to humanity, but at his death he was an honored and substantial citizen of Rushford.

NOTE—The house now owned by Mrs. Arlie Ives was Mr. Bell's home. The tannery was back of his house. He also owned the house now belonging to Robert Murray. A. Fraser was the last owner of the tannery.—G.

## RUFUS ADAMS

Viola Adams Farwell

RUFUS ADAMS belonged to the great family of Adamses of Massachusetts, among whose members have been men distinguished in letters and in affairs of state. Rufus Adams was born in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, in 1791. About 1817 he came to Arcade, Wyoming County, where he bought land and commenced building a carding mill, but he was taken ill so he returned home. In 1819 he married Saphronia, daughter of David Searl of Rowley, Massachusetts. With his wife and son, Alfred, he came to Rushford from Cavendish, Vermont, in 1824, and bought the farm one and one-half miles north of the village, now occupied by his great-grandson, Dorrance Farwell. He lived in a log house about three rods south of the present framed one, which was built in 1828 from pine grown on the farm. Some of the trees used were four feet in diameter. In the house were four fire-places and a large



## Rushford Families

brick bake-oven. He occasionally made a trip to Cavendish, Vermont, to visit his sister, Mrs. Joseph White, whose husband was a relative of Samuel White of Rushford.

The children of Rufus and Saphronia Adams were: Alfred Rufus, who in 1846 married Lucinda Acker; Saphronia Gilbert, who in 1848 married John Fletcher Gordon; and Salome Searl, who in 1848 married Jacob Weslar of Cuba. After living in Cuba a number of years, Jacob Weslar and his family moved to Pine Grove, Michigan.

Rufus Adams was frugal, yet on the Sabbath day he appeared in broadcloth. In matters of religion he was strict, yet emotional; he was one of the original members of the Free Methodist Church. He died at Pine Grove, Michigan, October 20, 1871.

Among his grandchildren are Frank W. and Lucy R. Gordon, Viola Adams Farwell and Arvilla Adams Farwell.

## MICAH HALL

H. J. W. G.

**M**ICAH HALL was born in 1807 in Plattsburg, Clinton County, New York. When about twelve years of age he came with his father, Thomas Hall, to Wayne County, traversing the whole distance with an ox team. When sixteen years of age he came to Rushford where his brother, Solomon Hall, was living. Angeline Furlong from Galen, Wayne County, came to visit her sister, Mrs. Solomon Hall. Young Micah Hall saw her, loved her, and married her at the home of her sister who lived on a crossroad then extending through the Alma lot back of the house now owned by George Eaton. Her father objected to the marriage because Micah was a poor man; and so he was, for after pay-

## Micah Hall

ing the preacher he had only enough money to buy an axe. He bought fifty acres of land of the Holland Land Company and they commenced housekeeping with nothing but a chest in a log house on the County Line Road. The neighbors gave them a teakettle, a few dishes and a quilt. Mr. Hall soon built a bedstead into the corner of the room, by fastening saplings to the walls, so that only one post was needed. When Mrs. Hall's father came from Wayne County to visit them and saw they were getting on in the world, he said, "Some folks will get a living off a stone." As Thomas Hall, then living in Rushford, was a Baptist exhorter, he was called to Mercer County, Pennsylvania, to preach. Micah Hall then bought of him one hundred acres of land partly improved. Later he purchased fifty acres of Sam Moore and fifty acres of Mr. Hicks, making two hundred and fifty acres in his home farm. At one time there were four houses on his farm. When he lived in a log house, south of the house now owned by Thomas Tapp, the trees were so near the house that his wife went out of doors while they were being felled. Later he lived in a log house by a spring north of the place where, about 1850, he built the large frame dwelling where his grandson, Herman Morrison, now lives.

Below the house near the bridge was a deer lick where he would climb a tree to watch for deer. He started out one morning before breakfast and was gone so long that his wife became anxious and taking her six-months-old baby in her arms started to find him. She met him carrying a large fish. He took the baby and she took the fish, saying that he had the better end of the bargain, the fish was so heavy. About seventy-five years ago when he was working in the woods, a swarm of bees lighted on some brush near him. He went to the house, sawed a barrel in two and put

## Rushford Families

them in. That was the beginning of what came to be two hundred swarms. Mrs. Hall always cared for the bees. One year he raised one thousand bushels of wheat on a forty-acres lot which he plowed in one land, going round it twice in one day, plowing by starlight in the morning and by starlight at night. Mr. and Mrs. Hall enjoyed the company of young people and treated them to delicious warm biscuit and honey when they came to visit them. Mr. Hall was a quiet man fond of reading, especially of reading history. His family enjoyed listening to him when he read aloud. He was an upright man, frugal yet ready to help in a worthy cause. Mrs. Hall was baptized in 1831 by Rev. Absalom Miner, pastor of the Baptist Church in Rushford. Mr. Hall never belonged to any organization and even refused the nomination to the office of supervisor. He always voted with his party which was first Whig, and then Republican.

His children were: Elmira, who died young; Arvilla, who lived to be twenty-one years of age; Harriet (Mrs. Chauncey Williams, deceased); Henrietta (Mrs. Randolph Morrison), and Sylvester, who enlisted in the Civil War and died while home on a furlough. Julia Baker, a niece of Mrs. Hall, was one of the family from the time she was nine years of age until her marriage to Albert Pettit. Micah Hall died September 29, 1879, in the house which he built on his land below Hardy's Corners.

NOTE—Part of the matter for this paper was furnished by Mrs. Henrietta Morrison.

## THE SEXTONS

H. J. W. G.

THE Sextons came to Rushford in 1825 from the town of Phelps, New York. When they reached the top of the Centerville hill the first driver stopped and said, "We will camp here for we will never get any higher." They were a week on their journey. In 1826 David Sexton received from the Holland Land Company a deed for sixty acres of land on both sides of Lower Street, extending from the land now owned by George Gant to that now owned by Verna Gordon Tarbell. In 1830 he bought of William Gordon twenty-seven acres which included a part of the present Chase farm and extended to the Gordon ville bridge. He lived several years in a log house just north of Caneadea Creek on land now owned by Lannis Damon.

There was a black ash swamp near what is now Fred G. Gordon's feed store, north of the abandoned roadbed of the T. V. and C. R. R., and a swamp extending from Lucian Hardy's house back of Dr. Ballard's house, to West Main Street, but the rising ground between them was always dry. There were great numbers of elm trees on the Sexton farm where Indians came and camped every summer. They made baskets, killed deer, built stone piles and smoked meat. One day as Mrs. Sexton sat spinning, she heard a sound and looking up saw two Indians with a great buck deer on their shoulders stalking through the house. The large doors were opposite each other. Another day after being out picking berries she came back to the house to find an Indian asleep in front of the fire place. The latch string was always out and the fire never.

NOTE—Miss Ruth Tousley of Jamestown, a great-grand-daughter of David Sexton, contributed part of the matter for this paper.

## Rushford Families

She did not disturb him, but when he awoke gave him some bread and meat which he never forgot.

In 1835 David Sexton sold his farm to Caleb Chase and worked at his trade, that of carpentering. The children of David Sexton were Sophia (Mrs. Chauncey McDonald); Clark, a merchant, who married Matilda Pearson of Brooklyn; Farrington; Crane, who married Maria Babcock of Cazenovia; Thomas; Cornelia, who married John Holmes, a wagon maker; Ruth, who married Stephen Parker, a hotel keeper, and Bradford, who died young. The frame house which Chauncey McDonald had built for himself was one of the first in town. It stood near the Lower Street bridge, north of the creek. It was occupied for a number of years by Mrs. Orsavilla Hall, granddaughter of David Sexton. Having been undermined by high water, it has recently been torn down. In 1827 Ruth Sexton was given a certificate to teach school, signed by E. B. Wightman, James Going and Chapman Brooks. The Sextons were Republicans. Crane Sexton was Deputy Sheriff a number of years, an office of which he was very proud. They were all church-going people. David Sexton died in 1839, aged seventy years, and lies buried in the "First Burying Ground" in Rushford.

Myron Sexton, cousin of David Sexton, and father of Morris Sexton, was a well-to-do farmer.

## ALVIN K. MORSE

H. J. W. G.

ALVIN K. MORSE was born in Connecticut about half way between Hartford and New Haven, March 9, 1794. He and his brother Harden came to Schoharie, New York, and learned the hatter's trade. They then went



## Alvin K. Morse

from city to city, as to Pittsburg and Philadelphia, working for one firm in a place. Monday morning the fur for the week's work would be weighed out. Mr. Morse sometimes earned sixty dollars a week. He said that fur must be worked according to the motion of the animal, that on mink fur one must work like lightning. He was employed in Buffalo by a man named Bull, when the War of 1812 broke out. After the city was burned he enlisted. He received from the government a land warrant for one hundred and sixty acres near Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, which he sold for one hundred and sixty dollars.

March, 1816, in Penfield, New Jersey, he married Sally Rolph. After two years they with their two children, Squire and Phineas, came in a covered wagon to Perry, New York, having traveled four hundred miles. He bought one hundred acres of hard wood timber in the town of Covington. After clearing a part, he put in a piece of winter wheat. When he came to Perry wheat was worth three dollars a bushel, but the next year it was worth only two shillings sixpence and must be drawn to York Landing. At this time calico was worth five shillings a yard, but it was fine, firm and glossy. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Morse in Covington, Louvisa, Marcia and James.

Mr. Morse became discouraged because of the low price of wheat, so, since his brother-in-law, Thaddeus Elliott, kept writing to him to come to Allegany County, after his spring's work was done, he came to Centerville on a visit. The trees had just leaved out and he thought he had never seen so fine a country, so he moved his family to Rushford, having bought the farm now owned by John J. Thomas. They lived in constant fear of bears and wolves. Once when Mrs. Morse was alone she saw a

## Rushford Families

bear near the house. Elijah Freeman was passing, so she called to him to come and shoot the bear through the window. He said that he had never fired off a gun. "Then load it and I will fire it off" "I never loaded one." "Then call John Johnson." The bear heard the man's voice and went through the woods to Eneas Gary's where two men were chopping. One of them slung his ax at the bear, but bruin escaped. Later Mr. Morse moved to Podonque near Asa Benjamin's onto what is now the Hallstead farm.

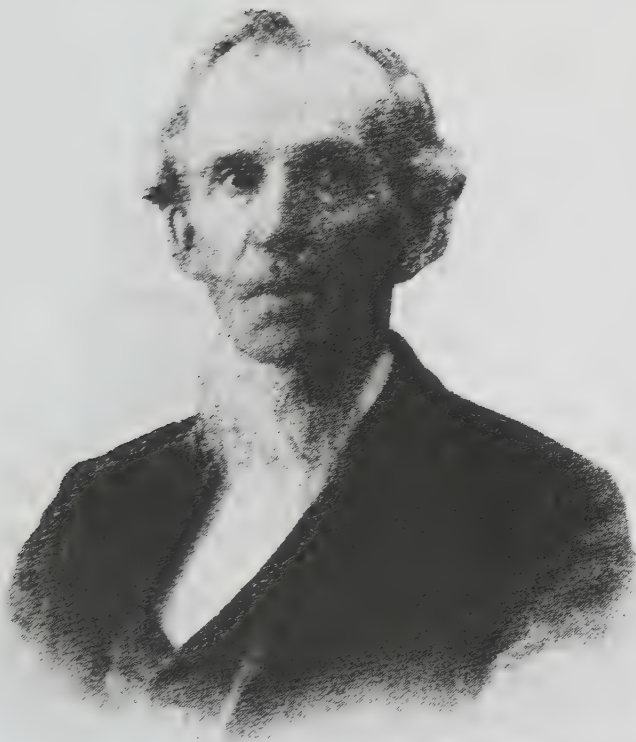
Alvin K., Jr., Lewis, Asa G., Amos, Ellen, Cynthia (Mrs. Wm. Hallstead) and Sarah (Mrs. L. Meade) were all born in Rushford. Asa G. Morse says that when a boy he came with oxen and sled to revival meetings in the old Methodist Church. Alvin K. Morse lived seventy years.

## THE SMITHS

Irene Smith Kendall

**A**LFRED SMITH, a son of Elihu Smith, who was a Connecticut sailor, was born February 4, 1798, and was married to Polly Brandow at Windham, Greene County, New York, February 5, 1821. On April 13, 1824, a son, Cornelius Kimber Benham Smith, was born to them. About two years after this happy event they decided to move farther west, so they started out with an ox team and cart containing a few necessities, including their pewter dishes, Polly's sampler and the set of pink and white china dishes given to them by her mother, Elizabeth Brandow, on their wedding day.

They located a few miles east of Leroy, in the neighborhood where Alfred had two sisters living, and stayed there



C. K. B. Smith

## Rushford Families

until the spring of 1828, when they again started out with the ox team and cart, locating on a hundred acres of land in the western part of the town of Rushford and building a log house on the south side of the Rushford and Farmersville road, just east of the county line. Later he got out timber and built a frame house on the West Branch and Hardy's Corners road, now owned and occupied by their grandson, Grant H. Smith. Alfred was an industrious and thrifty farmer, proud of a good ox team, one of which he always owned. Some of the old neighbors tell the story of his winding a log chain around his body and walking three times in one day to Rushford village to have it welded, feeling very proud that he owned an ox team strong enough to break it so many times. I have been told that Alfred and Kimber in clearing a certain piece of land got up at three o'clock in the morning and worked until nine o'clock at night, day after day, coming home to dinner and carrying a lunch both forenoon and afternoon. That is working, and let me add that Polly milked the eight cows and did all the other chores as well as the housework.

Alfred died May 21, 1873, and was buried at Rushford. Polly Brandow was the seventh child of Henry and Elizabeth Austin Brandow. She was born at Windham, New York, January 19, 1803.

She studied medicine for several years before her marriage with the local doctor, Benham, and became thoroughly acquainted with all medicinal herbs, the proper time and manner of gathering and preserving them, also what each was used for and how to prepare and administer it. In later life she spent many days at different seasons of the year walking through the woods and pastures with a basket on her arm gathering roots, barks and herbs. She used one room of her house as an "herb chamber." People

## The Smiths

came from near and far to consult "Aunt Polly" and get her herbs. She boasted of having many times cured people after the regular physician had given them up. Her success was due partly to the fact that she would go into their homes and give them good care. She loved the society of young people and would amuse them and herself also by telling fortunes and especially by telling ghost stories until even the young men dared not go home alone, then to her great delight, she would escort them home. She was a strong temperance woman but did love her snuff. She died December 6, 1880, and was buried in the Rushford Cemetery.

C. Kimber B., their only child, was a bright, studious boy. He obtained his higher education by attending "select school" at Farmersville and Rushford. He taught very successfully several terms at Cream Ridge, on the Grant (as Hardy's Corners was then called) and at Podonque where in 1845 he had fifty-four pupils according to a register kept by him at that time.

November 6, 1849, at her home on the farm now owned by Evan James at Hardy's Corners, C. Kimber Smith was united in marriage to Martha Maria Howe, second daughter of E. Kingsbury Howe and Matilda McCall Howe, and a granddaughter of Judge James McCall. M. Maria was born September 30, 1827. She, being very pretty and lovable, was called one of the belles of the town. She was a tailoress by trade and a fine seamstress. Before her marriage she went round from one house to another doing up the annual sewing for the family. She and her husband started housekeeping in a part of the house where Alfred and Polly lived. It is now occupied by Grant H. But in the spring of 1852 they built the frame house across the creek and lived there until their deaths. Mrs. Smith was an excellent woman and by her thrift and in-



## Rushford Families

dustry greatly aided her husband in his success. She died May 22, 1907, and was buried beside her husband in the Rushford Cemetery. They added more land as they could, until the home farm contained three hundred and sixty-eight acres, and owned several other farms, in all, over a thousand acres. It was Kimber's ambition to leave a farm and home for each of his children. They had six children grow up and marry, one daughter, Elizabeth, having died at five years of age in 1857. The others were Henry A., 1850-1903; Lawrence King, 1856-1903; Eliza D. (wife of D. E. Lewis), 1859-1893; Arlouine (wife of F. D. Kingsbury), 1860——; Grant H., 1865——; Irene S. (wife of E. Kendall), 1872——.

Kimber was a strong temperance man. He voted the Republican ticket until the Prohibition party was organized, after which he always voted that ticket. He did not care for office but was assessor for several years, elected on the Republican ticket. He was one of Rushford's most successful and influential farmers, and was held in high esteem. He was a deep thinker, was well informed on all matters of public interest and fearlessly advocated what he believed to be right. He died December 14, 1900, and was buried at Rushford.

## THE KINGSBURYS

H. J. W. G.

DANIEL KINGSBURY, a clothier by trade came to Rushford with his family in 1828 and settled on Rush Creek near the farm of Luther Woodward, Sr. The old cellar of his house may be seen across the road from Hugh Barber's home. Mrs. Kingsbury's maiden name

## The Kingsburys

was Dorothy Otis; she was a relative of the late H. H. Otis of Buffalo. About 1840 Mr. Kingsbury went to Arkansas to see his son Daniel; while there he sickened and died.

The children of Daniel and Dorothy Kingsbury were: Almeda (Mrs. Bishop) and Permelia (Mrs. Spencer), who never lived in Rushford; Dorothy (1 Mrs. Pierce, 2 Mrs. Bettes); Lucy; Sophronia; William O.; Daniel P.; J. Nelson, and Laura, who died young.

Lucy Kingsbury was born in Rome, March 1, 1809. In 1832 she married in Rushford Ebenezer P. Lyon, son of A. J. Lyon; they went to housekeeping in the Lyon homestead where were born their four children, Martin, Mary A. (Mrs. R. D. Charles), Laura and Abram J. Mrs. Lucy Lyon died February 1, 1900, in the house where she had passed her married life.

William O. Kingsbury was born in Rome, New York, May 1, 1815. September 19, 1837, he and Maryette Barr, who was living at Orville Boardman's, were married by Elder Absalom Miner, pastor of the Baptist Church in Rushford. Their oldest son, James, was born in Rushford village in the house now owned by Mrs. Susan Beaumont. At this time William O. Kingsbury was employed by Mr. Boardman in his ashery which stood near by. Otis, the second son, was born in a log house on the hill, which forms a part of the farm of John Haynes. The public highway then ran past the house. About 1843 Mr. Kingsbury moved to Farmersville where Percival, Maryette (Mrs. Frasier of Arcade) and Lowella (Mrs. Knowles Baldwin) were born. In 1871 Mr. Kingsbury moved to Podonque, having bought the place where Thomas Williams now lives. Late in life he built the house on Lower Street now owned by his daughter, Mrs. Baldwin, lumber for which came on one

## Rushford Families

of the first trains of the Tonawanda Valley and Cuba Railroad. In this house Mr. and Mrs. Kingsbury celebrated their golden wedding and passed their closing days.

Mr. Kingsbury was an ardent Republican; when the Civil War broke out he gave his three sons to his country in her need. Like the other Kingsburys he was of a mechanical turn of mind; when two of Rushford's daughters married, he presented each one with a clothes fork of his own making.

Beginning in 1836, the year of her conversion, when twenty-one years of age, Mrs. Kingsbury read the Bible through each year until her death, October 1, 1888.

J. Nelson Kingsbury was born in Brighton, Canada West, October 23, 1823. March 1, 1846, he married Emeline Lyon, daughter of A. J. Lyon. Their home was on Upper Street in Rushford village. Mr. Kingsbury was a carpenter and contractor. About 1860 he bought the land where Cephas Young's tavern had stood; two years later he moved his dwelling house to this place. The property is now owned by his daughter, Imogene, Mrs. James G. Benjamin.

Mrs. Lucy Lyon, J. Nelson and William O. Kingsbury were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Not far apart, on Lower Street in Rushford village live three grandsons of Daniel Kingsbury: Otis Kingsbury, whose war record covers four years; Abram J. Lyon, the veteran drummer; and Martin Lyon, a strong pillar in the Methodist Church.

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Benjamin Kingsbury was a brother of Daniel Kingsbury, who settled on Rush Creek. Benjamin Kingsbury and Joannah Jennings were married in Cherrv. Valley, New

## The Kingsburys

York, where were born seven children: William W. (in 1817), Adelia, Daniel, Hannah, Benjamin, Alvin and Edward. They all came to Rushford about 1830 and settled west of the village on a farm which in later years was part of the Israel Thompson farm. Here Julia (Mrs. Sayres) and Sophia (Mrs. Dodson) were born.

Benjamin Kingsbury was a carpenter and cabinet maker. Having been engaged by Deacon Solomon Rawson, the first settler of Lyndon, to build a dwelling house for him at Rawson, Mr. Kingsbury walked from Rushford village to Rawson, carrying his tools on his back.

A few years after Benjamin Kingsbury came to Rushford, he bought of the Holland Land Company sixty acres about half a mile northeast of Hardy's Corners. He lived on this farm until his death in 1850. The land was afterwards owned by his son Edward, later by William W. and now by George H. Kingsbury of Topeka, Kansas.

Daniel Kingsbury, father of Benjamin, was a soldier in the War of the Revolution; Benjamin was in the War of 1812, and his three sons, Benjamin, Alvin and Edward, served in the Civil War.

William W. Kingsbury was a carpenter and joiner and contractor. He went to Independence to build a house for John C. Basset. There he met Miss Betsey Basset who, October 10, 1848, became his wife. Their son, Frank D. (now deceased), was born while they were living at Black Creek. In 1852 they moved to Rushford where George H. and William C. were born, and where, in 1891, William W. died. Mrs. Betsey Kingsbury lives on the old homestead near Hardy's Corners.

William W. Kingsbury once told a man he would give him an acre of land for a building lot when he got married. Some time after, the man said, "Mr. Kingsbury, I'm

## Rushford Families

married now, where is the building lot you were going to give me?" "Well, sir," said Mr. Kingsbury, "I will give you a strip of land the length of my sixty-acre lot and wide enough to make an acre."

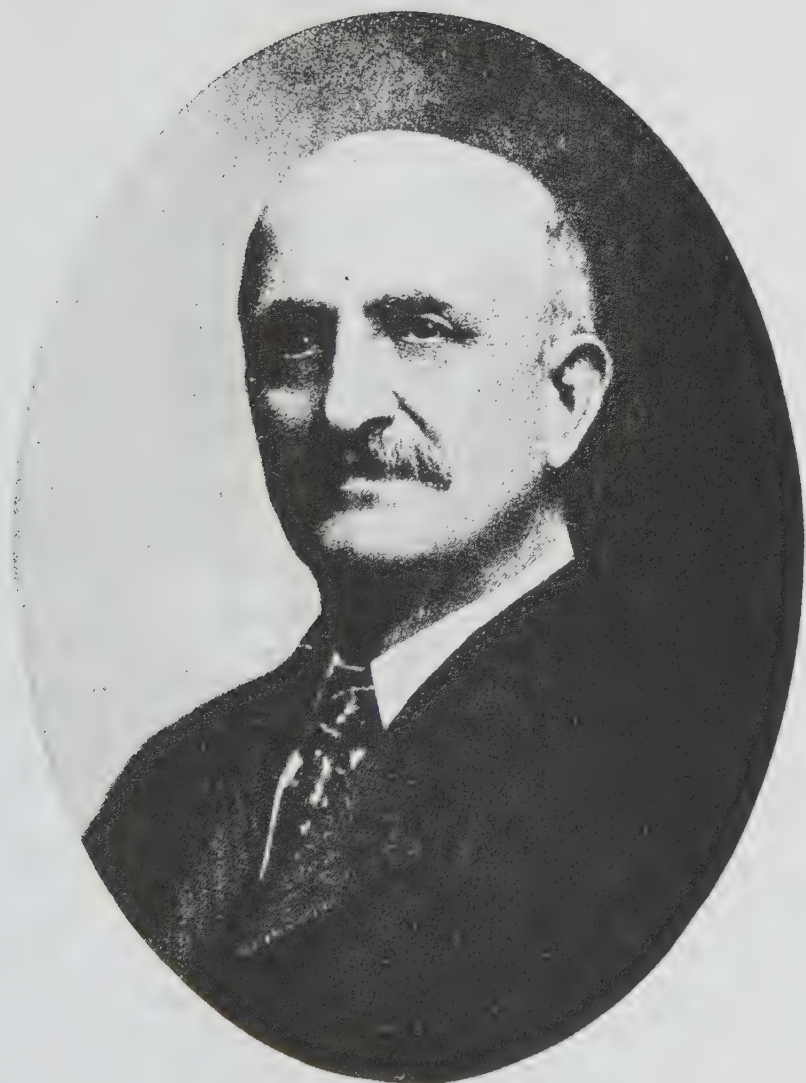
### THE LEAVENS

H. J. W. G.

**J**OSEPH LEAVENS emigrated from Scotland to Killingly, Connecticut. His son Charles in 1780, moved to Windsor, Vermont. Here Calvin Leavens, son of Charles and Lydia (Grover) Leavens, was born August 18, 1784. In the same place, December 8, 1808, Calvin Leavens married Lucy, daughter of Daniel and Ruhama (Ely) Woods. They moved to Rushford in October, 1828, and settled in Podonque on the road north from East Rushford. Their children, Calvin Galusha, Grover, Laura, Lyford, Lucy Loraine, Daniel Woods and Louise, were all born in Windsor, Vermont, except Calvin Galusha, who was born in Reading, Vermont, in 1809, and Louise, who was born in Rushford in 1830. Beside being a farmer, Calvin Leavens was a skillful blacksmith. The hoes which he made had thin, well-tempered blades; the eye of the blade held the handle. Calvin Leavens died May 5, 1862, and was buried in the Podonque Cemetery.

Calvin Galusha preceded his father to Rushford. He "left Windsor for the Holland Purchase February 7, 1828, coming with two uncles, two aunts and a cousin in a large, heavy lumber wagon covered with cotton cloth. The snow was a foot and a half deep until they crossed the Green Mountains, then it was mud, mud all the way to the Purchase, where they arrived after seventeen days of hard trav





Grover M. Pratt

## Rushford Families

eling." He married in Rushford, in 1834, his cousin, Mary Palmer Richards. After years of labor upon an unproductive farm, he bought one just north of the Podonque school-house, now owned by Edwin Weaver, where there was a sawmill which he owned and ran in company with O. D. Benjamin. In 1867 he moved to Hamilton, Michigan, where his wife died in 1871. In 1876 he returned to Rushford where he married Mrs. Lucia (Woods) Benjamin, a cousin of his first wife. Their home was just south of the entrance to the Podonque Cemetery. "What is the best time of the year to trim apple trees?" a person once asked Galusha Leavens. He replied, "I have trimmed apple trees all times of the year, and I have made up my mind that the best time is when your saw is sharp."

Mr. Leavens died September 6, 1888. During his closing hours, in reply to a niece, he said, "O, I am so happy! If this is the beginning, what will it be by and by?"

Grover Leavens married Mehitable Roberts of War saw. In the forties he was attorney and counselor at law and justice of the peace in Rushford. In 1847 he was member of Assembly from Allegany County. He and his wife both died in Horseheads, New York, in 1865, without children.

Laura Leavens married Edward B. Pratt, a Methodist minister, in 1842. Their children were Grover M., born in Rushford, and Mary L., born in Bolivar. Both are now living in Rochester, New York. Grover M. is at the head of the department of domestics in the wholesale department of Sibley, Lindsay, Curr & Co. Mary L. is an unusually efficient grade teacher. Laura L. Pratt died at the home of her son on West Main Street in Rushford April 24, 1891.

Lvford Leavens came to Rushford in 1830. In 1837

## The Leavens



Inez L. Leavens

he married Myra, daughter of Tarbel and Lucy Gordon. After living on the farm in Podonque many years they moved to Rushford village. Their home was on the corner of Church and Lewellen Streets where Mr. Leavens died December 20, 1875. Lyford Leavens was a farmer and a maker of butter firkins, sap buckets and straight barrels.

A well-known man who objected to being disputed, was talking at some length in one of the stores in Rushford. After he was through, Lyford Leavens said that when he was a young man and lived in Vermont he drove a four-horse team with a lumber wagon to Boston. A terrible

## Rushford Families

storm came up, so he asked a man if he could drive into his barn. The man said that his barn was full but he could drive around back of the barn, so he did. Finding large cabbages growing there, he drove under a leaf and was protected from the storm. "That's a pretty big story," said the first speaker. Mr. Leavens replied, "I thought 'twas lies you were telling."

A daughter, Eliza, wrote the following lines of her childhood days in Podonque:

'Twas just beyond the old schoolhouse,  
How well I remember the spot,  
The dear old wood so enchanting  
Is it strange that I never forgot  
How at noontime we strolled through the woodland  
In search of the wildwood flowers,  
Or fashioned some wonderful playhouse  
Just under those green, leafy bowers?

On the knolls grew the moss and the bears' wheat,  
Which we made into bracelets and chains.  
Though the early spring flowers have faded,  
Their soft, lovely perfume remains.  
And often we've taken our luncheon  
To that cool and pleasant retreat,  
And listened while one of our number  
Would some wonderful story repeat.

And then methinks of "Old Deacon,"  
So old and lonely and queer,  
No one in the wide world to cheer him,  
No friends or kindred near.  
In winter he tended the fire

## The Leavens

And fastened the schoolhouse door,  
And was ever glad of the fragments  
Which we left on the schoolroom floor.

So we emptied our pails and our baskets  
And gave the "Old Deacon" a share;  
How his old, wrinkled face would brighten  
When he saw we had something to spare.  
'Twas only a step to the mill pond,  
While close beside stood the mill  
With the bridge and the cold spring of water  
Just down at the foot of the hill.

How my thoughts still go back to the wayside,  
Where we passed on our way home from school  
And surrounding the trough that was moss-grown,  
We drank of its water so cool.  
But the once noisy mill wheel is silent,  
The old sawmill has gone to decay,  
Yet the miller and mill by the wayside  
Are fresh in my memory today.

W. H. Leavens, the only living child of Lyford Leavens, resides on Lower Street in Rushford village.

Lucy Loraine Leavens married in Rushford, in 1839, Giles Hollister Chapin. She died in Toledo, Ohio. Their older son, Henry Harrison (deceased), was editor of the Rushford *Weekly News Letter* when only nineteen years of age. The other son, Charles Theodore, is living in Cadillac, Michigan.

Daniel Woods Leavens taught school in Rushford in 1845. The schoolhouse was on the south side of West Main Street. Among his pupils were Julia Thompson, Juliet



## Rushford Families

Crocker, Amelia Tarbell and Otis White. January 3, 1846, he and Mary Louisa Burr were married in Rushford.

In the *Republican Era* of September 1, 1847, one may read the following advertisement:

“D. W. Leavens.

Painter—Near the foot of Main Street opposite Union Block, Rushford, N. Y.”

It is said that he offered to paint free of cost a sign for John Doland if he could paint what he liked. He and Edward Pratt put their heads together with this result:

“I work for those who pay the best,  
And when I’ve time I serve the rest.  
I’ve trusted many to my sorrow  
Pay today, I’ll trust tomorrow.”

For years this sign hung in front of Mr. Doland’s shop, attracting the attention of every passerby.

In 1882 Daniel Leavens was a druggist in Bay City, Michigan. He afterward lived in Pasadena, California. Of this place he once wrote, “Pasadena is the church-goingest place I ever lived in. Rushford is by no means to be sneezed at, and Decatur, Michigan, does fairly well, but Pasadena can give them points and discount them. From half-past ten to eleven Easter Sunday, the streets were thronged with church-goers, and long processions of teams came in from the country. How they did come in! Preferring to be with God we took the opposite direction”

The children of Daniel Leavens were Charles Andrew and Walter Calvin, born in Rushford, Edward P. (deceased), born in Oramel, and George F., born in Horseheads, New York.

Louise Leavens married Cenclaire Dayton in Horseheads, March 24, 1864. She died in Elmira, New York.

Mrs. Clarissa Woods Calkins in her paper *Old Home*

## Billings and Hannah Walker

Week said that the children of Calvin and Lucy Leavens were all of a quiet, even temperament, lovely in their lives as their father and mother were before them.

### BILLINGS AND HANNAH WALKER

Julia Tarbell Merrill

**B**ILLINGS WALKER, son of Gideon and Hannah (Billings) Walker, was born August 31, 1767, at Brookfield, Massachusetts. In 1796 he married Hannah Proctor, daughter of Leonard and Mary (Keep) Proctor. Hannah Proctor was born at Westford, Massachusetts, July 3, 1778. She afterwards moved with her parents to Proctorsville, Vermont. In 1828 Billings Walker and wife moved to Rushford; but this was not their first trip to this place, since in 1821 Mr. Walker drove through from Vermont with his daughter Hannah and her two little boys, Leonard and Rolin, her husband, James Tarbell, having come the year before, and a few years later Mrs. Walker came from Vermont on horseback to visit this daughter. Billings and Hannah Walker had ten children, nine of whom came to Rushford to live. Their names were Hannah Billings (Mrs. James Tarbell), Thomas B., John Witherspoon, Leonard Proctor, Mary Keep (Mrs. John Adams), Gideon Dana, Experience Paulina (Mrs. Wilson Gordon), Artemus Barnard, Jabez Proctor and Solomon Cutler.

After residing in Rushford for a time Billings Walker moved to Farmersville, where he died in 1852. While living in Vermont he was justice of the peace for many years. When he married a couple, he always gave the wedding fee to the bride. This made him very popular in that capacity. Among those whom he united in marriage were Samuel

## Rushford Families

White and Percy Snow, father and mother of Mrs. Ellen White Hubbell. He was a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, being a Royal Arch Mason, a distinction enjoyed by comparatively few in this country at that early date. After the death of her husband, Hannah Walker moved back to Rushford where she died in 1863.

Grandmother Walker, as she was always called, was a kind-hearted, generous woman, beloved by all who knew her. The esteem and love in which she was held was shown by the fact that for years, upon her birthday, she was serenaded by the Rushford Cornet Band. She anticipated their coming and always invited them in to have refreshments which included birthday cake. It is said that no one could go into her house and get away without having something to eat. Many, now, remember Grandmother Walker's good ginger cookies. She was a capable woman, full of fun and extremely witty. She was an aunt of the late Senator Redfield Proctor of Vermont, whose son, Fletcher Proctor, is the present governor of that State. At a Masonic banquet held in Rushford, when Grandmother Walker was an old lady, she was an honored guest. Mr. John Hubbell procured a horse and carriage and took her to the hall for the supper and social time, which she enjoyed so much that she often referred to it afterwards.

In regard to the Walkers, Mrs. Ellen White Hubbell of Arnett, Oklahoma, says, "The family were the cream of the country, able to meet any demand upon them in a business or social way. For intelligence and uprightness the Walkers were beyond the ordinary and did well their part in the development of the country."

Billings and Hannah Walker have nine grandchildren now living (1908). One of them, Dr. Hiram D. Walker of Buffalo, after several years of research and experi-

## Newbury Eddy

ment has recently astonished the medical profession by his theory as to the origin of the cancer germ. The descendants of Billings and Hannah Walker are numerous. There are twelve of the sixth generation, ten of whom are great-grandchildren of Hannah Tarbell Lines, one of whom, Ethel Hyde of South Lima, is a great-granddaughter of Andrew J. Walker, and one of whom, Merrill Luther Thomas of Silver Springs, is a great-grandson of Dana O. Tarbell. The only descendants of Billings and Hannah Walker now living in Rushford are Julia (Tarbell) Merrill, wife of W. W. Merrill, and her daughters.

## NEWBURY EDDY

Eddy C. Gilbert

NEWBURY EDDY was born in Vermont, in 1799. He was a descendant of Wm. Eddy, who was born, probably in Bristol, England, about 1550. Newbury Eddy married Amelia Tarbell, sister of Abel Tarbell. They were familiarly called "Uncle Newb" and "Aunt Milly." They moved from Mount Holly, Vermont, to Rushford in 1829. He drove through with a four-horse team, bringing his wife and daughter, Sophronia, and some household goods. He settled two miles west of the Center, as the village was then called, on the Farmersville road, buying the land of the Holland Land Company in two separate parcels. The farm yet remains in the family. A virgin forest, principally hemlock, maple and beech covered the farm. He commenced to cut logs for a log house but after getting three ready, he gave up the job and decided to build a frame house, part of which is still standing. Two more daughters were born, Sophia and Lucy. Sophronia and Lucy died

## Rushford Families

in 1854. Sophia married Hiram B. Gilbert and to them were born four children, Eddy C., Frona L., Nettie M. and Daniel W.

Newbury Eddy was a typical early settler, honest and industrious. His jolly good nature won him many friends. He was rather tall and of massive build. He cleared his own farm, in winter cutting and drawing timber, handling chains in zero weather barehanded. He had one of the copies of the first issue of the New York *Tribune* and was ever after a subscriber. Like his neighbors he kept drovers with their droves of cattle and sheep. He was original in his sayings. He said that his team could draw more down hill than up because they could get a better foothold, and that he had lost a good deal of money by not having cattle to sell when the drovers came along. If Abel Tarbell came in while he was at a meal he would ask him to eat and when Mr. Tarbell would say "No," he would say, "It is manners for me to ask but for you to refuse." A negro came to his house in war-time and asked for something to eat. He was given a supper of warm biscuit and honey. Overcome by the kindness he shed tears. A bed was offered him for the night but he refused and slept in the barn. The next day Mrs. Eddy sent Mr. Eddy to the barn for some eggs. He came back without any, saying, the only nest he found was a nigger's nest. Once when he was driving back from town with his wife who had just bought her a new bonnet, she asked why he was driving so fast; he replied that he wanted to get home before the bonnet was out of fashion.

Newbury Street in Springfield, Massachusetts, was named after him by his brother, Wilson Eddy. His wife died in December, 1866, and he followed her in January.



## NAHUM AMES

Augusta Ames Woods

NAHUM AMES married Edith, daughter of Edward and Rachel Hildreth Tarbell. They came to Rushford in a covered wagon from Mount Holly, Vermont, in the fall of 1830, bringing with them two children, Fletcher and Augusta. Mr. Ames went on foot to Ellicottville and obtained an article for one hundred acres of land covered with timber, in what is now called the Cream Ridge district. His family remained at Newbury Eddy's during the winter, while he cleared enough land to build a log house into which they moved in the spring of 1831. Clarissa and Horace were born in the frame house which was built seven years after the log one. Both Nahum Ames and his wife were members of the Baptist Church. He died at the age of eighty-three years on the land which he cleared. Newton Ames of Warsaw is a grandchild

## A. W. E. DAMON

C. M. Damon

AMONG the substantial families of Rushford's citizens of fifty years ago, were four Damon brothers, Warren, Alonzo, Martin and DeSalvo, who, for the most part, spent their lives in Rushford. Warren, the eldest of five sons and three daughters, is the subject of this sketch. He was born in Reading, Windsor County, Vermont, May 15, 1812. His father, Dimick, was a son or grandson of another of the same name. About 1824 he removed with his family to the Black River country, somewhat north and east of the central part of New York, and some years later set-

## Rushford Families

tled in Rushford, probably near where Alonzo spent his life, on the Creek or Buffalo road. Later still he removed with his daughters and younger sons to the southeast corner of Indiana. On a return trip, for a visit, he was taken sick and died suddenly in East Sewickley, Pennsylvania. He was said to be an industrious and peaceable man, somewhat noted for athletic feats, but irreligious and unobservant of the Sabbath Day, until converted rather late in life.

Brought up under the influences implied above, the subject of our sketch was converted in 1831, at the age of nineteen, and became at once a zealous Methodist whose most prominent characteristic in life was his devotion to Christ and the church and the strictness with which his family of three sons and two daughters were trained in religious habits and like devotion. Notwithstanding, however, his ardent devotion to Methodism, he courted and married Emily, daughter of Nathan C. Kimball an equally ardent Baptist and a pillar in that church. About eight years thereafter, she joined herself with him in church fellowship, in part that their children might have the benefit of a united family in religious training.

Of the years of his married life, four or five were spent in his father's neighborhood, six just east of Hardy's Corners, and then a half mile south of Hardy's Corners on a new farm which he opened up, clearing and draining and, like others in a comparatively new country, turning his hand to various employments, as making his own sleds and other tools, cobbling shoes, making his own sap buckets and such like. It was while building his barn here that he cut his foot so badly that it resulted in a mortgage on the farm which stuck to it thirty years beyond the ten he spent there. He had broken his leg when a young man working for Judge McCall, "the old Judge." His last

## A. W. E. Damon

thirteen years were spent on the dairy farm which he bought of Robert Morrow, one and a half miles from Rushford on the Cuba road, where he died in November, 1870. Of the brothers named above, three were farmers and Martin,\* a first-class carpenter. All were industrious and made good homes for their families, but among them Alonzo was the most rugged and the most prosperous.

A. W. E. Damon was a man of intelligence, a great reader, alive to national and world-wide events. To the extent of his ability he promoted education in his neighborhood, often charged with the responsibility of choosing teachers, seeing that his children were well supplied with necessary books, and later giving them the benefit of the Academy for advanced training. In politics he was a Democrat until the organization of the Republican party, when he entered heartily into the campaign for Fremont and freedom. When the news of its defeat and the election of Buchanan came, his brother-in-law, Reuben Lyman, came in one morning and said, "Well, Warren, we've lost our vote." "I should have voted the same way if I had known I should lose it," was his reply. As a boy and youth he had imbibed some of the politico-religious opinions growing out of the abduction and murder of Wm. Morgan, which entered into the politics of the State and nation for some years, and while little was said in public, owing to the transcendent influence and importance of the question of slavery, he remained strongly opposed to the influence of Free Masonry in church and State. He was an admirer of W. H. Seward, the cultured and able statesman and Secretary of State, and like most New Yorkers would gladly have hailed him as presidential candidate when Lincoln was nominated. Once at table the conversation turned

\*He married Caroline Chase. Lannis Damon is their son.

## Rushford Families

to politics and he remarked that he was a Seward man. "I'm not," said his wife; "I'm a Sumner man," and the little daughter chimed in, "I'm on Ma's side," and that of course settled the controversy. Sumner was more of an Abolitionist.

Uniformly industrious and public spirited, without trying to do excessive things, and contending steadily and cheerfully with many heavy adversities of accident and sickness in the family, which seriously crippled his resources, he pursued the even tenor of his way till life's end. He was active and somewhat prominent officially in the church, a friend of the pastors, welcoming them to his home but not limiting its hospitality to his own denomination. The writer well recalls the entertainment extended at one time to three Baptist ministers on a public occasion. Minor offices of responsibility in the business of the community were also filled by him at times. He evidently enjoyed the confidence of society, as irreligious men and infidels who would not have a minister would engage him, on occasions of death in the family, to come and offer prayer in their homes. Thus lived a humble and useful citizen, respected by his fellow men. He died at the age of fifty-eight.

Children of A. W. E. Damon:

1. Rosina (Mrs. I. W. Evans), deceased.
2. Albert, died of wounds received in Civil War.
3. DeSalvo, resides in Rushford.
4. Charles M., a Free Methodist minister, resides in Mitchell, South Dakota.
5. Emily (Mrs. James Cook), resides in Plymouth, Iowa.

## HARMON HYDE

### Mary Ann Hyde

**H**ARMON HYDE, eldest son of Erie and Pamela Hyde, was born in Burlington, Vermont, July 28, 1807. His people came to Rushford in the fall of 1831, and bought a farm, two miles north of the village, of Mr. Pomeroy Johnson. It is now owned by Mr. George Cole.

Harmon Hyde learned the jewelers' trade in Buffalo of a Mr. Stevenson. According to the contract, he was to board himself and pay one dollar a week for learning the trade. At the end of the first month Mr. Stevenson told him that he was a genius and of such service to him that he was willing to give him the dollar a week instead of taking it. After finishing his trade, he returned to Rushford and established himself in business, in 1834, in a building that stood north of the house now owned by Mr. Romain Benjamin. He boarded at Mr. James Thirds'. June 25, 1837, he married Miss Tabitha Gilman, a sister of Mrs. Thirds'. On account of illness in the Thirds family, the marriage occurred at the residence of Mr. Oramel Griffin, whose residence and place of business were on the now vacant corner of Main and Upper Streets. In 1840 Mr. Hyde built his home and place of business on Main Street. This was the second or third building on Main Street. The property is now the Hyde estate.

Mr. Hyde was widely known and honored as a strictly honest man. Mrs. Hyde was an active woman, and a matter of necessity to the sick in town. They had nine children in their family: Lestina (Mrs. Gifford), who with her daughter lives in Washington, D. C.; Henry, who died September 11, 1871; Mary Ann, who lives in Washington, D. C. (1908); Laurretta, who died September 9, 1866; Charles, who died February 6, 1849; Cornelia (Mrs. Web



## Rushford Families

ster Hardy), who lives in Rushford; Cordelia (1 Mrs. Robbins, 2 Mrs. Hardaway), who died May 10, 1900; Harmon, who lives in Silver Springs; Fred, who lives in Rushford. Cornelia and Cordelia were twins. Mr. Hyde died September 16, 1867, and Mrs. Hyde September 5, 1884.

## HARRIS GILBERT

Eddy C. Gilbert

**H**ARRIS GILBERT, son of William and Hope Gilbert, came to Rushford in 1831 with his wife and two sons, John and Daniel. He first lived about a mile west of the village where Amanda, Mrs. George Cady, was born. In 1834 he was keeping the tavern, now occupied by Miles Tarbell, at the corner of West Main and Buffalo Streets, where a third son, Hiram Butler, was born. The same year he was elected one of the highway commissioners, the only town office he ever held. After leaving the tavern he learned the trade of blacksmith with John Osborne, and afterwards they were partners for a few years in both Centerville and Rushford. Later he moved to Fairview and soon after to a farm joining Micah Hall's on the County Line road. This farm is in the town of Farmersville. By this time he had moved so often that his wife remonstrated, saying, "A rolling stone gathers no moss." He replied that he did not want to be all mossed over. With the exception of one year, 1858, he lived on his farm until 1864, when he moved to Rushford village where he died April 6, 1870.

He was associated with Peter Pettit in a meat market and in buying and selling cattle. Later he and Stephen



Eddy C. Gilbert

## Rushford Families



Residence of George Gant

Hardy bought and sold cattle. He was a Democrat in politics. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church but when the Free Methodist Church was organized he joined that denomination. Without consulting his wife he handed in her name also as a member. Louisa was born in 1836, Sophia in 1841, and Olive, Mrs. Hosea Persons, was born on the farm in Farmersville in 1844. Louisa married L. C. Hubbard. Sophia married H. H. Frink and moved to Carthage, New York. Daniel was a soldier in the Civil War. He died in hospital in Annapolis, Maryland, and was buried in an unknown grave. John for his first wife married Margaret Miller, sister of Nathan B. Miller. His second wife was Lovisa Chapin. He was killed by accident April 23, 1899. Hiram when a boy clerked for Washington White and also for Wilson Gordon. He used to tell an anecdote that took place in White's store. A man from Allen was speaking of his town, when Emerson Kendall, who chanced to be present, said "Wouldn't Allen be a good

## Aaron Rice

place to sell calamities?" The man replied, "Don't come over there with any calamities, we've got enough of them already." Mrs. Olive Persons is the only one of Harris Gilbert's children now living.

## AARON RICE

**A**ARON RICE was born in Windsor Vermont in 1796. Rebecca Tolles was born in 1800. They were united in marriage in Weathersfield, Vermont, in 1830. After two years they came to Rushford and settled in Podonque on the farm now owned by Melvin Crowell. Here Mr. Rice built a small house, at first putting up curtains for doors. At night they could hear the wolves howl.

Eight children were born to them. Five times the Angel of Death came to their home, taking the three oldest boys in babyhood, and two daughters, Martha and Phila, in the bloom of womanhood. Olive, Clark and Margaret passed middle life. Olive married Edwin M. Worden of Arcadia, Wayne County. Clark married Jane Osborn of Centerville. Margaret married Hiram Holdridge of Penfield, Monroe County. Mrs. W. H. Thomas and Irving Worden are grandchildren who reside in town.

Aaron and Rebecca Rice were both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. They died on the farm which he had cleared and which had been their home so many years.

NOTE—Information furnished by Mrs. Ellen Worden Armison.

## Rushford Families

### ISRAEL THOMPSON

Julia A. Thompson

**I**SRAEL THOMPSON was born in Lansing, Tompkins County, in 1803. In 1828 he married Calista Holton Silsby in Brighton, New York. In the year 1832 he started from Groton, Tompkins County, for Jamestown, Chautauqua County, this place being noted for its fine water power. His object was to put up a trip hammer shop for the manufacture of edge tools. In those days traveling was dependent upon the faithful horse and as it was slow, hard work climbing the long road over the rugged hills, his horse became lame, so he stopped in New Hudson at the house of a friend who formerly lived in Groton. This friend, Mr. Asaph Allen, who later came to Rushford to live, said to him, "Why go to Jamestown? There is a thriving village below here called Rushford, look about there and buy a place." A blacksmith wanted to sell, so the long distance yet to Jamestown, the lame horse, the friend and the thriving village shaped his destiny in Rushford. Showing how much his heart was set upon this Eldorado with its excellent water power, he would often remark when hearing of Jamestown or meeting friends from there, "That is the place where I ought to have located." After buying, he returned to Groton and settling up his business there, he brought his wife and two little girls, Aurora and Mary, to their new home in Rushford.

He took much interest in this new home, helping along its business interests and promoting its growth. With Charles Gilman he put up a fine frame store on the corner where Taylor's brick store now stands. After the flood of 1864 this store, owned then by W. Griffin, was moved where the brick block now stands, and like many good things in



## Israel Thompson

Rushford was consumed by fire. He also put up several dwellings. He was interested in all benevolences, education, temperance and religion. He helped to build the churches of the different denominations, though a Methodist by birth, a grandson of the Rev. Benjamin Abbott, an itinerant minister under Bishop Asbury, whose circuit ranged over parts of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. He was ever ready to promote the cause of Christ in the community, was a steward in the Methodist Church until his death and for a number of years furnished the elements for the communion service, aided by his Presbyterian wife who baked the bread and cut the loaves into the form required for the service and kept the silver service clean and bright. He helped to build the Rushford Academy and was one of its active trustees for several years. He owned a scholarship in Lima Seminary and one in Meadville College, Pennsylvania, which he lent to persons wishing to attend these institutions. His temperance principles were firmly carried out for the good of the community. A temperance pledge signed by him at the age of eight-five years, at a temperance lecture, is held by his family. Some time in the thirties he was orderly sergeant in a company of State militia. The company was called to Buffalo but before arriving there, they learned their services were not needed, so, to the joy of their families, they returned home.

Five children were born to Israel Thompson in Rushford, of whom one, Benjamin F., died in infancy. The others were Emma M., Edwin Franklin, Julia A., and Alfred W. Israel Thompson passed from earth at the age of eighty-nine years, his intellect unimpaired, his faith strong in his Heavenly Father.

## Rushford Families

### A TRIBUTE

H. J. W. G.

LET us go back sixty years to a blacksmith shop on the south side of Main Street not far from the corner. The clock has not yet struck five, but the charcoal fires are burning brightly on the forges and the flying sparks tell the drowsy neighbors it is time to rise. The builder of the fires goes to his breakfast; after breakfast there is family prayers, he is never too busy for that, though there are horses to be shod and axes and wagons to be made. After dinner before returning to his work, he lies down to rest. Thursday evening finds him in the house of prayer; and when he comes down to a beautiful old age, he commits to memory hymns, choice poems and portions of the Scripture, ripening for eternity. Such was Israel Thompson.

### THE HILLARYS

Maud Howard Brady

DAVID HILLARY was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1790. He and his wife, Hannah Agett, came to America in 1830, after a stormy passage of eight weeks and two days, in a ship called the "Two Brothers." They settled at Perry, Wyoming County, where they lived two years. Then they moved to Rushford onto the farm, on the Fairview road, now owned by a grandson, David Hillary, where they spent the remainder of their lives. David Hillary was an orphan. He was apprenticed seven years at wagon-making, and helped saw the lumber in a saw pit in which the saw worked perpendicularly, one man standing in the pit and the other above. He was a great reader and found

## The Hillarys

more pleasure in arguing about politics than in doing his work. He was loyal to his new country. He died in 1855.

His wife, Hannah, was born in 1795, and died in 1880. She was an industrious woman. Every spare moment would find her knitting. Two children were born to them, James and Nancy. James was born in 1818 and died in 1897. He married Emma Johnson. They had six children. Jennie married Harry Wallace, who ran a sawmill at Hardy's Corners. She now lives in Belfield, Virginia. Hannah took care of her aged parents at their home in Gordonville until their deaths. She married Lawrence Clark, and died at her home in Caneadea in 1902. Mary, who married Louis Keeton, lives at Perry. George married Mae Baker and lives in Centerville. David, who lives on the old homestead, married Helen Abbott.

Nancy Hillary was born in 1822 and died in 1892. She married Eleazer Howard. They lived in Farmersville a number of years, then they moved to Rushford onto the farm now owned by James Wilson. They afterwards bought of William Williams the farm now owned by Alva Powell. In 1880 they traded farms with D. S. Damon. On this farm, now the farms of Walter Howard and John Lyon, they resided until their deaths. Mrs. Howard, especially in her later years, read the Bible a great deal. Four children were born to them. Mary married Edwin Pasco and now lives in Pittsburg, Michigan. Emma married John Moore and lived at West Branch until she and her husband moved to Oramel where she died in 1909. Francis married Carrie Capin and for several years lived on a part of the Howard farm. He now resides on Main Street in Rushford village. Walter married Eliza Van Name. They live on the old homestead.

## Rushford Families

### THE REV. ELIJAH METCALF

Flora Metcalf Thomas

THE subject of this sketch was born in Chesterfield, Cheshire County, New Hampshire, December 25, 1777. He was one of a family of ten children. When he was quite young his parents moved to Salisbury, Herkimer County, New York, where he lived many years. He was brought up on a farm and attended the district school, making good use of what advantages he had for obtaining an education. He was converted at the first service of the first Methodist minister who preached in Salisbury. As there was no church, the meeting was held in a barn. The text, from which the sermon that made such a deep impression on his mind was preached, was taken from the parable of the Great Supper. Mr. Metcalf united with the Methodist Episcopal Church and feeling that he had a call to preach was soon given an exhorter's license. He was ordained deacon by Bishop Asbury, at Paris, New York, July 23, 1811.\* The field of labor assigned him and Loring Grant and Marmaduke Pearce by the Conference in 1811 was the Holland Purchase and Caledonia circuit which included all of Western New York west of the Genesee River, Erie County in Pennsylvania, and all of Ohio south of Cleveland. He organized the first Methodist class in Rushford with four members. He formed several other classes on his circuit, which extended three hundred miles, and visited every point once in three weeks, receiving a salary of from fifty to seventy-five dollars a year. When he began the work of the ministry, his only possessions consisted of a horse and saddle, a few books, and his saddle bags containing

\*Mrs. Flora Metcalf Thomas has the ordination certificate of her grandfather, Elijah Metcalf, given at this time by Francis Asbury.—H. J. W. G.



Levi Metcalf



Rev. Elijah Metcalf



## Rushford Families

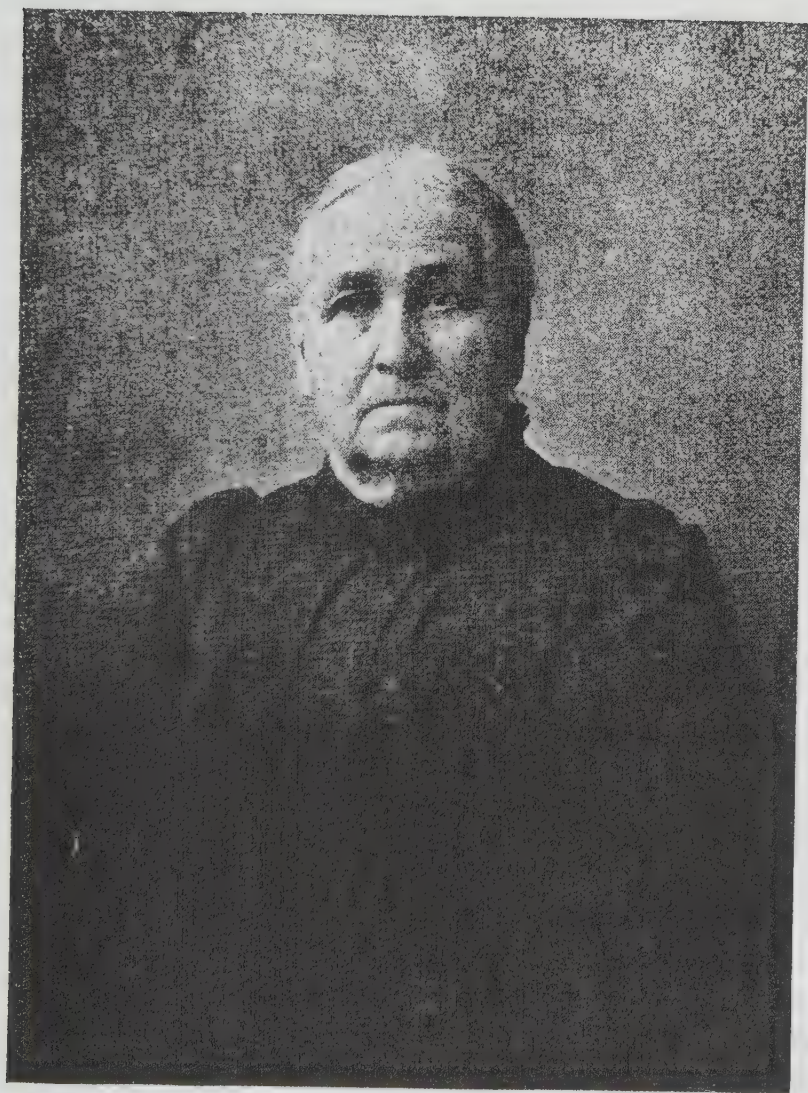
some clothing. His life as a traveling preacher in the Methodist itinerancy was one of hardship and privation—finding his way through the country by means of blazed trees and often fording streams swollen by heavy rains, yet amidst all the toil and discomfort, he was happy and contented in his work for the Master. He was earnest and enthusiastic in his presentation of the truth and his labors were crowned with success.

In Pennsylvania he met Hannah Blakeslee, a resident of Vermont, whom he married January 13, 1813. Realizing that he could not support a wife on the meager salary he was receiving, he was located and returned to Salisbury. Here six children were born to them—four sons and two daughters. In September, 1832, he with his wife and family moved to Rushford, making the journey in a wagon with an ox team. They made so slow progress that the two oldest boys became tired and started on afoot, arriving in Rushford before the rest of the family. He bought the farm, situated on the Creek road going toward Center ville, then owned by Daniel Ely. Here he and his wife spent their remaining years. The farm is still owned by one of his descendants.

After his marriage, when he was not engaged in the regular work of the ministry, he frequently preached in schoolhouses, and acted as a supply. He often walked ten or twelve miles on Sunday morning, filled his appointment and returned home the same day. Some idea of his simplicity may be formed by the following arrangements which he made for his funeral and burial.

Rushford, Nov. 27, 1858.

If I should be taken away suddenly or otherwise, get me a plain, cheap coffin, and let my funeral expenses be cheap as may be consistent. Have my funeral attended at



Mrs. Cornelia English Metcalf

## Rushford Families

home, for preacher Brother Farnsworth, or Reddy. If they cannot be obtained get some enthusiastic exhorter: Otherwise get Brother Marville. The text, "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God." The first hymn, "My span of life will soon be done;" second hymn, "On Jordan's stormy banks I stand." Let the singing be in the congregation. Let the monument be a white oak plank. This order given by my hand.

Elijah Metcalf.

His wife died January 26, 1866, being nearly eighty years of age. He died March 1, 1861.

Lyman B. Metcalf, the oldest of the family was born April 13, 1815. When he came to Rushford he was seventeen years of age. He married Eliza Porter of Lyndon, September 7, 1836. To them were born four children, two of whom, Mrs. Juliette Stone and Fred L. Metcalf of this place, survive. He served his country as a private in Capt. Woodworth's company. He was an ardent comrade and enjoyed meeting with "the boys in blue." Uncle Lyman, as he was familiarly called by both old and young, was of a jovial, fun-loving disposition which made him quite a favorite with children and young people. He died September 5, 1896. He was buried just sixty years from the day he was married.

Roxana Metcalf was born May 4, 1816. She married Alonzo Damon in 1839 and began housekeeping on the farm on the Creek road now owned by Herbert Francis. Here she lived fifty-one years. She was the mother of three children, Thomas, Rhoda and Riley, none of whom are living. She died June 2, 1890, eight days after her sister, Rachel.

Levi Metcalf was born September 26, 1817. He mar-

## The Rev. Elijah Metcalf

ried Cornelia English, daughter of Robert English, September 18, 1844. He bought the farm on the Creek road adjoining his father's. It is now owned by Charles L. Metcalf. Here they lived, with the exception of one year, until he died, September 30, 1892. Three children were born to them, Mary (Mrs. Wilson Robbins), Charles L. and Nelia E. (Mrs. Edward Dietrich). He was a man who was especially devoted to his family and had the confidence and esteem of all who knew him.

Rachel Metcalf was born October 26, 1819. She came to Rushford when a young girl and lived on the old homestead, about two and one-half miles north of the village, until her death. Of the family of six children, she was the first to answer the summons of the death messenger. Her life was spent in doing deeds of kindness—administering to others in time of sickness and trouble.

Zephi was born June 14, 1821. He married Harriet Gould in March, 1843. They lived in Rushford for a few years after their marriage, then went West, settling in Kansas. Seven children were born to them. He died in Arkansas City, January 23, 1895.

Elijah Metcalf was born January 17, 1823. He came with his parents to Rushford and lived about thirty-three years on the farm which his father purchased, caring for both father and mother in their declining years. March 20, 1861, he married Salome Gordon, daughter of Tarbel Gordon. One daughter, now Mrs. L. J. Thomas, was born to them. In 1865 he bought a farm known as the Claus farm, situated in the northeastern part of the town, where he lived a few years. His entire life, with the exception of nine years, was spent in Rushford. He was quiet and unassuming in manner, and his character was marked by integrity and loyalty to principle. His wife died July 8, 1893.



## Rushford Families

On July 6th of the following year, he fell from a load of hay and was killed almost instantly.

As a family, their history is in some respects quite remarkable. Reared by parents who were examples of piety, they were converted early in life and all united with the Methodist Episcopal Church. The four sons were each given an exhorter's license. At the time of, or soon after, the organization of the Free Methodist Church, Lyman, Levi, Rachel and Elijah united with that body. Levi and Elijah at the time of their deaths were local preachers. The first death occurred when the youngest of the family was sixty-seven years of age, and all died within a little more than six years. The oldest was the last to answer the death call.

### JAMES H. GREEN

Ellen Green Nye

**J**AMES HAGERMAN GREEN was born in Muncie, Pennsylvania, in 1805. He was of English descent on his father's side and German on his mother's. He was one of twelve children—ten girls and two boys. His father's folks were Quakers and his mother's Calvinists. When about eighteen, thinking he could do better than to stay on the little farm, he went to Elmira, New York, and learned the shoemaker's trade; he next went to Cayuga Lake, where he was living at the time of the Morgan excitement, when he had to do military duty; from this place he was called to Perry, Wyoming County, where he lived a number of years and owned some property which he traded for a farm in Centerville. Daniel Searl, who ran a tannery and shoe shop in Rushford, went to Perry and hired him to oversee his work and keep his books. He hung back about



## James H. Green

keeping the books, feeling that his education was not good enough, but Mr. Searl said they would both go to writing school. They did so and it proved to be a great help to Mr. Green.

He came to Rushford in the fall of 1832. Here he met Lydia La Selle of Madison County. She was visiting her cousin, Mrs. Searl, and working at her trade, that of tailoring. Mr. Green and the young tailoress were drawn to each other, but she seemed loath to give up her independent life and gave him no answer until she had been home a year, when he went to claim his own, and they were married in the fall of 1836 by the noted Universalist minister, E. M. Wooley. At the wedding a poem was read by Mr. Wooley who had composed it for the occasion and, as the custom was, cake and wine were served.

Mrs. Green was of French descent and distantly related to La Salle, the famous explorer. Mr. and Mrs. Green went to housekeeping the spring after their marriage, in the rooms over the tannery on the place which Ellen Lyman now owns. There was no other place to be rented at the time. They staid there about three years, then Mr. Green bought a lot of Samson Hardy and built the house which is occupied by his daughters, Lucia and Sarah, who kindly cared for their parents in their old age. The apple trees on the lot were brought by Mr. Hardy on his back from Canadea.

Mr. Green finally started business for himself, but he never kept many hands. Edward Brooks learned his trade of him. There were several shoe shops in Rushford, all running at the same time—James Green's, Joseph Bell's, Cyrus Lathrop's, Roswell Williams', Henry Barras' and Edward Brooks'

Mr. Green was the trustee and librarian of the west district for a number of years.

## Rushford Families

James and Lydia Green had six children: Marcus of Avon; Mary, who was postmistress under Samson Hardy; Ellen, a teacher, who married Marshall B. Nye, a carpenter in Rushford; Sarah and Lucia; and Samuel Green of Centerville. Claude Nye is the only grandchild of James Green living in Rushford.

The belief of Mr. and Mrs. Green in the ultimate restoration of all men to holiness and happiness was very dear to them. James Green died August 24, 1887. Lydia Green lived to be ninety-five years old, dying July 16, 1906. They did what they could; they were good parents and honorable citizens.

## THE MOORES

Eddy C. Gilbert

**J**OHAN, Richard and Isaac Moore came to Rushford from London, England, in 1832. Samuel, a younger brother, and his mother came four years later. They were descendants of the Earl of Torrington, Admiral in the English Navy when William and Mary were rulers of England. In the spring of 1833, John settled on three hundred and twenty-one acres of land two and one-half miles west of Rushford village, between the Cuba and Farmersville roads. King Howe built for him a log house in which he lived for twenty years. The door handle was a sheep's leg nailed on by the hoof. Isaac and Samuel were butchers, having served their time in England. Richard and Isaac had no children. Both died in 1881. Samuel died unmarried in 1868. John's children were Mary Louise, who married Thomas Agett, Elizabeth Ann, who married James Tapp, and John Torrington, who married Emma Howard and is now living at

## The Colburns

Oramel. John Torrington Moore still owns a part of the farm on which his father settled. John Moore died in 1859 aged seventy-one and his wife survived him thirty-four years, dying at the age of ninety. John Henry Tapp, Thomas J. Agett and Mrs. Ed. Stone are the grand children of John Moore who reside in town.

Three oil wells have been drilled on the property once owned by John Moore, two in the sixties and one in 1880. The last well was sunk to a depth of 1,867¼ feet. Gas is still present and there were indications of oil at the time the well was measured. The first well, drilled by the spring pole method, was sunk six hundred feet when J. B. Gordon and W. Griffin bought it of John Torrington Moore for one thousand dollars. It was sunk three hundred feet further and abandoned. A spring near by has always shown surface indications of oil.

## THE COLBURNS

H. J. W. G.

THE Colburns are descended from an English family that settled in Dedham, Massachusetts, in 1639. One of a later generation, Warren Colburn, opened a school in Boston, and in 1821 published "First Lessons in Mental Arithmetic" which had an unparalleled sale. Moses Colburn lived in Shrewsbury, Vermont. Four of his children, Charles, Seth, Holton and Phineas, emigrated to Allegany County, New York. Charles and his wife, Nancy Wetherel, and three sons, George C., Caleb and Charles, came to Rushford in 1833 and settled in Podonque on lot twenty-one on the farm now owned by Leslie Larkham. A year or two later Holton Colburn, a younger and unmarried

## Rushford Families

brother, walked to Rushford from Rochester with his boots upon his back filled with potatoes for seed. He also bought land in Podonque on lot twenty-one. After building a home, he married Phebe Percy, daughter of Asa Benjamin. Seth Colburn came to Rushford in the spring of 1836 when his son, Adoniram J., was five years old. His wife, Lucy Wetherel, was a sister of his brother Charles's wife. The farm that he bought joined that of Charles on the north and that of Holton on the south. It is now owned by Eben Haynes.

These three brothers lived in a row, enjoying one another's society many years. They were honest, industrious and ingenious, readily turning their hands to almost any kind of work. Soon after they came to Rushford Charles and Seth built a sawmill on Seth's farm, on Thunder Shower Creek. It was run day and night when showers and freshets gave plenty of water. In 1846 Charles and his sons, George C. and Caleb, built a sawmill on Caneadea Creek. They afterward sold the mill to Calvin Kellogg, father of Hiram Kellogg.

In 1858, the Colburn brothers, George C. and Caleb, were selling drygoods and groceries in the building that stands on the corner of Main and Church Streets; but they soon sold their business to H. K. Stebbins, who came to Rushford in 1857. Abijah, the fourth son of Charles Colburn, was born in Rushford. George C. Colburn died at his home in Kelloggville in December, 1878.

Adoniram J. married Laura J., daughter of Randolph Heald. In 1871 they moved to Greenville, Michigan. Adoniram was skillful as a mechanic, and successful in his investments in timber land. Henry, his younger brother, married Mary J. Forsath. In the spring of 1887, having sold their farm in Podonque, they went to Kansas where they

## Robert English

remained a year. They then moved to Denver, Colorado. Neither Adoniram nor Henry is now living.

In 1847 Nelson McCall advertised in the *Republican Era* to pay three cents above the market price, in goods, for butter that would sell for as much in the New York market as Holton Colburn's. Two of Holton Colburn's children, Gratie M. and Myra (Mrs. A. Fraser), live in Rushford on Buffalo Street; Julia (Mrs. Nathan B. Miller), died in 1895.

Flora Colburn, daughter of George C. and Harriet Colburn, lives in Rushford.

Phineas, the last of the four brothers to leave Vermont, settled in Hume in 1847. He was the grandfather of Charles C. Colburn, who in 1878 married May, daughter of Washington White. For about fifteen years he was engaged in the mercantile business in Rushford, leaving in 1893 for Oneonta, New York.

NOTE—A part of the matter for this article was contributed by Gratie M. Coburn.

## ROBERT ENGLISH

Victoria English Gordon

ROBERT ENGLISH was born in the north of Ireland in 1797. His father, John English, was English and his mother, Isabelle Broadhead, was Scotch. The family sailed for America when Robert was four years old. It was a three months voyage and proved to be a sad one, for one of their little girls died and was buried at sea. They landed in New York in 1801. After living in New York and Albany, they moved to Norway, Herkimer County, where Robert became acquainted with Abigail Williams,



## Rushford Families

to whom he was married in 1824 by Rev. Elijah Metcalf. Robert English and wife remained at Norway until after the birth of their second child, when they moved to Salisbury where they lived until 1833, when with their four children and the wife's mother, Lodema Williams, they started for Rushford in company with their neighbor, John L. Lamberson, and his family. There were four covered wagons in the train. Two drivers who came with goods returned to Herkimer County. They were eight days coming, bringing their provisions with them but stopping at the wayside taverns over night. When people along the road found they were going to Allegany they said, "You will starve. It is a poor country. They can't raise anything there." This so discouraged them that if they had not already purchased their farms, they might have turned back. Mrs. Cornelia English Metcalf, who was then six years old, remembers the kindness of people along the way.

Mr. Lamberson's farm was next to the Centerville line. Mr. English's farm, bought of Elijah Freeman, was the next but one toward Rushford. Eliza, Cornelia, Frances and Ann, the older children of Mr. English, attended school in Centerville, about a mile from home, until the schoolhouse was built in the Benjamin district. Their first teacher was Orissa Rawson, who afterwards married Lorenzo Gordon, but the teacher spoken of with the highest praise was William Woodworth. About a year after Robert English came to Rushford, his parents and two brothers came and bought two hundred acres of land on the road west. Their land joined his. A part of it was owned later by Charles Farwell and Mr. Acker. They built three small houses, but in a few years sold out, John going to Canada, James to Little Genesee and the parents to live with Robert. Finally the parents moved to Canada where they remained during

## Robert English

their lifetime. When the grandparents lived with Robert, there was a family of ten in a house that had but two rooms. In the room below were the wheels and the loom beside other furniture; but with a fire place above and below all were comfortable. After the older ones and children were in bed, the mother would scrub the floor, so in the morning they found it clean and white. On this place Charles and Victoria were born and the oldest daughter died. In 1847 Robert English sold his place to Bethuel Freeman and bought the Charles Swift farm about two miles from Rushford on the Cuba road. His son Charles worked the farm and lived with his parents until 1875, when he moved to Belfast. Then the youngest daughter, Victoria, and her husband worked the farm and cared for her parents. The mother died in 1881, the father in 1883. They lived together fifty-seven years, celebrating their golden wedding in 1874.

They were both self-sacrificing for their children, working hard to keep them in school. The daughters all taught school in Rushford, except Ann, who taught in the West. The father never punished his children, yet they quickly obeyed. He was a Methodist, attending church regularly and always taking his family with him. His children were all Methodists in belief. Mrs. English's mother was a Presbyterian. When she died in 1844 the funeral was held in the Presbyterian Church and Rev. Gillan officiated. She was greatly missed by the family.

Cornelia English married Levi Metcalf. Frances married William Williams in 1852. Their only living child is Anna (Mrs. Grant C. Woods). Ann married George White. Charles married Frances Burns of Belfast. They have eight children. Victoria married Charles Gordon in 1868. Their only child, Lloyd, lives in Rushford. Of the six children born to Robert and Abigail English all but Eliza and Fran-

## Rushford Families

ces are living. Five generations of the English family have lived in Rushford.

### JOHN LAMBERSON

Frank Lamberson

**J**OHN LAMBERSON was born in Herkimer County, October 29, 1792, and was reared there. He married Nancy Lobdell in Salisbury, Herkimer County, in March, 1818, and to them were born in Salisbury seven children. He and his family, in company with Robert English and family, came to Rushford in 1833. When, on his way from Herkimer County, he mentioned where he was going, a man told him that he had a friend go to Allegany who "near starved to death." Mrs. Lamberson commenced crying and said, "You see what we are coming to." Mr. Lamberson settled on the farm now owned by John Davis, three miles north from the village. He was a quiet, upright man, a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and for a number of years poormaster of his town.

His children were: Anson, who married Amy Hibbard of Warsaw; Huldah (Mrs. Chas. Benjamin); Nancy, who married Clinton Ely and after his death John Boyce; James, who married Margaret Glover of Machias; Elvira, who married Daniel Woods and after his death E. S. Thompson; Polly (Mrs. Albert Woods); Ralph, who died young; Electa, who never married. Electa was the only child born in Rushford. There are two grandchildren living in town, Romain Benjamin and Frank Woods.

## RANDOLPH HEALD

H. J. W. G.

**R**ANDOLPH HEALD was born in Chester, Vermont, January 18, 1808. He married in Rushford, August 18, 1836, Rebecca Ruhama Woods, daughter of the Rev. Daniel Woods. They lived in Podonque where he owned an interest in a sawmill that stood east of the highway on land now owned by Ensworth McKinney. About 1845 with their three children, Nathan Ethelbert, Laura Jane and John Randolph, they moved to East Rushford. In 1848 he and Myron Woodworth were running a sawmill that stood near the site of the McElheney sawmill of today. Near by was his house which was carried off by the flood of 1864. By trade Mr. Heald was a carpenter. He and his wife were among the first members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Nathan Ethelbert married Annette Foot of Conneaut, Ohio. She was the mother of his children. After her death he married Nancy Hamlin of Forestville, New York. He is a preacher in the Wesleyan Methodist Church and lives at Forestville.

Laura Jane is now Mrs. Oscar Wilson of Belfast, New York.

John Randolph married Martha Woodard of Chardon, Ohio. To be near his parents, in 1873 he exchanged his farm in Podonque, now a part of the Van Dusen farm, for the house and store of James K. Hitchcock in East Rushford, now owned by Mrs. Catherine Small. He ran the store but two years. Beginning in 1891, he was for seven years employed by White and Elmer in their drug store in Rushford village. He is now living in his father's old home in East Rushford.

Both Nathan E. and John R. served in the Civil War.



John R. Heald



## John G. Osborn

After the death of his wife, Rebecca, which occurred December 3, 1877, Randolph Heald married Mrs. Nancy Crocker,\* widow of Harvey Crocker. Mr. Heald died April 5, 1899.

Two of his four grandchildren are living in Rushford: Carrie A. Daley of East Rushford, wife of Hiram Daley and daughter of Nathan E. Heald, and Clifford, son of John R. Heald, who owns and occupies the Board farm in Podonque.

(See the sketch on Cheese Box Factories.)

## JOHN G. OSBORN

H. J. W. G.

**J**OHN G. OSBORN was born in Groton, New York August 28, 1812. His father died when he was a small boy, leaving his mother with seven children of whom he was the youngest.

In 1834 he came to Rushford. Soon after, in company with Harris Gilbert, he went to Centerville where for a year they ran a blacksmith shop. Returning to Rushford they bought out Col. Baird† who owned a house and shop on Upper Street just north of the Globe Hotel. Later Mr. Osborn bought out his partner's interest and continued the business alone many years. He afterwards was engaged in buying and selling carriages. When he came to Rushford he had only five cents in his pocket; but he became prosperous, and the old house was replaced by a new square, one-storied house with Ionic columns.

March 11, 1838, he married Esther, daughter of Jo

\*Daughter of William L. Gary. Harvey Crocker lived on the farm in East Rushford, south of Caneadea Creek, where his grandsons, Bertram and Fred Crocker, now live.

†Daniel Baird, father of Earl Baird.

## Rushford Families

sephus Young. They lived sixty years on the place on Upper Street now owned by their daughter, Mrs. Minnie Jagers. Another daughter, Mrs. Ellen Gregory, resides in Lapeer, Michigan.

When the Rushford Cemetery Association was organized, October 2, 1850, with Elihu Talcott as president, John G. Osborn was chosen vice-president. He was a member of the first school board of Rushford Academy and was chairman of the committee of arrangements for the Semi Centennial. At the time of his death, which occurred in June, 1898, he had been for many years a member of the Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. John Kintz, Mr. Osborn's sister Nancy, lived in Rushford village, on the Caneadea road, where Lorenzo D. Weaver now lives.

## ISAIAH LATHROP

Alice Lathrop Holden

**I**SAIAH LATHROP was born in Bethel, Vermont, August 2, 1805. When a young man he came on horse back from Vermont to Pike where he taught school. Here he married Allathyna Greene, also a teacher. In 1835 Mr. Lathrop removed to Rushford and opened a tin shop, the first in town, on the corner of Main and Buffalo Streets. He lived in rooms in the rear of the store, while his new home across the creek, on Lower Street, was being built. In this home he lived until his death.

In 1852 he erected a three-story building on the site of the old shop. The west store was used as a fully equipped hardware store until it burned in 1885. Willis C. Lathrop was in partnership with his father up to the time of his

## Isaiah Lathrop

death in 1884. At that time Mr. Lathrop resigned the business into the hands of his son-in-law, Henry A. Holden, and his nephew, Irving L. Bond. In the early times this was the only hardware store for miles around, and people came from all the surrounding towns to buy hardware and hand-made tinware.

Many young men found employment with Mr. Lathrop, several of whom later became wealthy and influential men. Mr. Sessions worked about twenty-five years in the old tin shop, and the shelves filled with shining pans, pails and dip-pers of all sizes, teapots and coffeepots showed his skill. Mr. Lathrop himself worked with the others and could often be seen mending sap boilers and making stovepipe. The east store was occupied by a brother, Cyrus Lathrop. Here boots and shoes were made to order by Cyrus Lathrop and Lucius Kimball. The third floor was fitted up as a lodge room, and was used by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which Mr. Lathrop was a member. When the building was burned in 1885, the east store was used by Myron Claus as a harness shop.

In the flood of 1864, the store was in danger of being swept away. A large hole ten feet deep was washed out at the southeast corner, and some of the people who were being helped from the hotel on the opposite corner came near losing their lives there. At this time Mr. Lathrop was busy at his home assisting people across the angry torrent that, filled with driftwood, flowed down Lower Street. He, with difficulty, rescued a one-legged shoemaker, whose crutch had been struck by a log. Eighteen people spent a night of anxiety at the Lathrop homestead. Among the number was the family of Mr. O. T. Higgins whose home next door had been washed away.

Mr. Lathrop served the town of Rushford as commis-

## Rushford Families

sioner of common schools, inspector of common schools, town clerk, supervisor and assessor. He was one of the founders of Rushford Academy. His name appears as an applicant, in the charter given by the Regents of the University of the State of New York. In early years he was a Universalist and attended the services in that church until they were discontinued. He was always a staunch Republican, a great admirer of Horace Greeley, and a subscriber of the New York *Tribune* for many years. He had a liberal, unprejudiced mind and always welcomed new thought.

The children of Isaiah and Allathyna Greene Lathrop were: America, Julia (Mrs. C. W. Bond), Ellen, Janie, Mary (Mrs. Hiram Coats), Willis and Alice (Mrs. Henry A. Holden of Buffalo), the only one who survives.

Mr. Lathrop died at his home in Rushford in 1887, and is buried with other members of his family in the Rushford Cemetery.

## DAVID BABBITT

Allan H. Gilbert

DAVID BABBITT left Otsego County in 1836, and lived about a year in Pike, Wyoming County, before coming to Rushford. He was born in 1796. He married Lucy Shipman (born in 1798, died in 1872), who was of Puritan lineage and believed to be of pure English descent.

David Babbitt, like most of the early inhabitants of Rushford, supported his family mainly by farming, though he worked at shoemaking. But he did not allow himself to be completely absorbed in the routine of his vocation, for the details of nature as he saw them about him were eagerly grasped and synthesized by his inquiring mind. A flower

## David Babbitt

to him was not a flower and nothing more. He observed the life and properties of every plant he saw in the virgin forests. The only man in the region who rivaled him in his knowledge of botany was a German herb doctor, who lived in Yorkshire, Cattaraugus County. Every year the two met to spend two or three days comparing their observations. But David Babbitt's interest in the world around him was not limited to flowers; astronomy had great fascination for him. He so enjoyed being out of doors at night that he usually took a walk before his rather late bedtime. He was in the habit of saying that those who were never out of doors at night knew only half the world

The earth at his feet was no less attractive to him than the hosts of the heavens. His study of the forms of the land led him to a theory of their origin in full agreement with the opinion of the best geologists. In connection with his interest in geology, he investigated the strange heaps of earth supposed to be the work of the mound builders. His study of these and of the habits of the Six Nations led him to disbelieve in the existence of the mound builders.

These studies of the varied phenomena of the world around him were for David Babbitt the foundation for a theory of the structure of the earth, and even of the universe as a whole. One of his theories was that of a fourth state of matter as he called it. Matter in this fourth state occupied somewhat the same position in his system as does ether in that of physicists of the present day. By its intervention he strove to account for many phenomena, such as that of the transmission of light, which he thought not otherwise satisfactorily explained.

It is scarcely to be thought that he carried on his studies and speculations without the aid of books. Though comparatively unprovided with education, he was a constant



## Rushford Families

reader. Every book which came into his hands he drew something from. Nor was his reading confined to natural sciences. He had read sufficiently in history to be able to use the analogy of the ancient states of Greece in his study of the Iroquois. There was not a volume in the old Podonque district library which he had not read.

David Babbitt showed his approval of the old rhyme:

“The brewer’s craft and the matter’s art

Cheer the body and warm the heart”

by always taking a drink when he happened to be where liquor was on sale. On Sundays when he put his horse in the hotel barn, after leaving his wife at church, he always stopped at the bar to refresh his body before going on to partake of the metaphysical refreshment furnished by the preacher. At the celebration of the taking of Richmond he is said to have lapsed into the same condition as most of the worthy citizens of Rushford. Measured by the standards of his own day, he was not an intemperate man.

When David Babbitt came down to his last sickness, he felt the end approaching late one evening. Being unwilling to die in bed he had those with him assist him to the reading chair in which he had spent so many hours of study, where he breathed his last March 17, 1867.

David and Lucy Babbitt were the parents of six children, Horace, Sally (Mrs. Lowell Farwell), William, Lucy (Mrs. Samuel Bellows), Lemyra and Albert.

B. F. Babbitt, the son of Horace, lives on the old homestead in Podonque.

NOTE—Information furnished by B. F. Babbitt.

## MICHAEL WARREN

A. L. Warren

ABOUT 1837, Michael Warren, with his wife and four children, Frank, Betsy, Michael and Nathan, came from Ashfield, Massachusetts, to Pike, New York. After remaining a year in Pike, where Elmira was born, he came to Rushford and settled near Hardy's Corners on a farm bought of Oramel Griffin. A small frame house and a small barn had been built, and some chopping, but not much clearing, had been done. There was not room enough between the stumps in the dooryard to turn a horse and wagon around. The neighbors told him he would starve to death on that farm, but he said, "I guess not." Being a man of strong constitution and iron will, he took it for his stent to dig out one stump each morning before he ate his breakfast. He must have gotten up rather early or eaten his breakfast late for some of the stumps were very large. So the work went on. In 1843 he built a sawmill which did good service for twenty-one years. In 1864 the high water took out the dam, and it was never rebuilt.

Two children were born in Rushford, Caroline, who died young, and Albert L., who lives on the old homestead. Elmira (1 Mrs. Joel Chamberlain, 2 Mrs. Wm. Griffith) passed her life in Rushford. J. Frank Warren died in Portage City, Wisconsin, in 1907. Betsy (Mrs. Samuel Corn) lives in Oklahoma. Michael Warren, Jr., went to Oil City, Pennsylvania; he wrote that he was coming home, but he was never after heard from. Nathan Warren lives in Texas. Michael Warren was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Rushford. He died in 1873, and was buried in the cemetery near Hardy's Corners.

## Rushford Families

### THE BEECHERS

David Herbert Beecher

NORMAN and Lambert Beecher, sons of Deacon Joseph A. Beecher, came when young men to Rushford. Norman came about 1840, and Lambert, who followed the pursuit of harness making in the village, several years later. Norman settled on a farm about one and one-half miles northwest of the village, beginning at once to clear off the hardwood timber with which a large part of tract was covered. On this farm, where he resided more than twenty years, he reared his family of seven boys, Lyman, Chester, Franklin, Henry, Herbert, Lawrence and Ward. Norman Beecher was of that sterling type of Eastern stock that believed in hammering manhood into his boys, if he did not do anything else. He was very strict in his discipline, but large-hearted and kind. He was always firm in his declaration of truth, his favorite expression being "I will state the facts, let it cut where it will." Of these boys only the following are living at the present time: Chester, now residing at Great Barrington, Massachusetts; Henry, at Binghamton, New York; Herbert, at Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Lawrence, at Dunkirk, New York. They were a musical family and I believe had more fun to the square inch than any other family in the neighborhood. They attended many a paring-bee which was wound up with music by the Beecher band. With the tones of the violin, cello and flute were blended the sweet voices of their cousins, the George girls, who lived near by.

Of course we all bought our clothes and groceries, hoes and spades at the Higgins store in the village. Regularly, every spring, father would take a long string and measure

## The Beechers

the heads of us boys for straw hats, tying a knot in the string to indicate the size of each boy's head, and when the new straw hats came home, I tell you there was a high old time, as was the case when we each got a pair of new boots. And what good old times we had in the old school house on the Creek road, with the dear old boys and girls I still have in mind, Julia and Augusta Ely, William Ely, their brother, and Dan, another brother, who was killed at the battle of Chancellorsville, Dezell Hill and his sisters, Ellen Lyman and others. I still have all of the reward of merit cards covering the seven years I went to the school on the Creek road. I remember the time our school joined the village school in a picnic and brother Henry and I led the procession with fife and drum. That was the proudest day of my life. Henry was fourteen and I was twelve years old. After we boys became older we got a sort of finishing off at the Rushford Academy, which institution we devoutly revered, believing that what we could not learn there was not worth learning.

There was kind old Doctor Stacy, who took us through the hard sicknesses. As a boy I could not understand him.

The Civil War came and brother Chester and brother Lyman enlisted with others of our brave boys. I remember how pale and thin Charles Pettit was when he came home from Libby Prison, and how we missed Dan Ely. Brother Henry, then fourteen, wanted to go as a drummer boy (for he was a drummer) but mother said she could not spare any more of her boys. Brother Chester still has the old musket and knapsack he carried from 1863 to 1865.

Then the big flood came that carried away stores and houses and just paralyzed the little village.

## Rushford Families

Lambert Beecher reared three sons and two daughters, Augustus, Edward, Fred, Helen and Rosamond, all of whom, except Edward, who died when about forty years of age, are still living. Augustus found his way to the Middle West where he was a successful stock raiser and farmer. He now resides in Oklahoma. Edward served in the Civil War. Fred entered the railroad field and serves the Lehigh Valley Company as passenger-train conductor. He resides at Auburn, New York. Rosamond is still (1909) living with her father at Newark Valley, N. Y. He is ninety-six years of age, in full possession of his faculties and a joy to those with whom he associates.

So many pleasant memories come to me as I think of the old Rushford home and its dear associations. Those of us who have lived there may well point with some degree of pride to the men who have done things in the world, whose home was once in Rushford: H. R. Palmer, the noted composer of sacred music; Frank W. Higgins, late governor of New York State; O. T. Stacy, sometime member of assembly, and others who took prominent places in professional and commercial life.

NOTE.—The writer of the foregoing may well be classed with the "men who have done things." The following is taken from a Grand Forks, North Dakota, paper: "Mr. David H. Beecher of Grand Forks, North Dakota, is the leading mortgage loan dealer in the State, having successfully handled Red River Valley investments for more than twenty years. Mr. Beecher has been president of the Union National Bank of Grand Forks for more than fifteen years and at present occupies the same position in several other banking institutions. His success is the admiration of all who enjoy the pleasure of his acquaintance."

AGNES GEORGE TAYLOR.



## Rushford Families

### THE GEORGES

David Herbert Beecher

THE members of the George family living in Rushford, were the sons and daughters of David George. They came from Livonia in Western New York to Rushford at an early date. The boys were Gardner, Baxter, Allen, Harvey and Egbert, and the girls were Clarissa, Anne, Lois and Elizabeth, all of whom have passed to the beyond. Anne, the first wife of Norman Beecher, died in early womanhood. He afterwards married her sister, Lois, to whom were born all of the family of boys, except Lyman, the oldest.

Dr. Egbert George was a dentist and druggist at Rushford when a comparatively young man. Allen lived on a small farm about a mile from Rushford village. He was one of those sweet-spirited men whose kindly influence was felt by all those with whom he came in contact. He reared a charming family of two boys and three girls. Those living are Carl George at Duluth, Minnesota; Clara George Thayer at San Rafael, California; Elizabeth George Nye at Allegan, Michigan, and Agnes George Taylor in Rushford. Willis died at the age of twelve. The girls were noted for their sweet voices and womanly graces.

### THE GEORGES

Agnes George Taylor

IN the spring of 1840, the three older sons of David—Gardner, Allen and Baxter, came to Rushford and bought the farm on the Creek road now owned and occupied by Albert Farwell. The three brothers lived in a

## Rushford Families

log cabin until the following winter, when they removed to a frame house. After some years of bachelor life on the little farm, Gardner married Olive Boardman. He built and lived for a time in the house on Lower Street, now the home of Lucian Hardy. He afterwards went to Farmersville where he bought a farm. Later he returned to Rushford where most of the remainder of his life was spent. He died in October, 1900, his wife having died some years before. The four children born to them died in early manhood and womanhood.

Baxter married Mary Ann Gordon. After a few years he removed to Iowa, where he lived until, alone, and in old age, he went to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, that he might be near his brother Egbert. He died there about 1902. In 1846 Allen married Eliza Thompson. He lived in Rushford village about two years, then he bought the little farm one mile up the Creek road, now owned by W. H. Leavens. This was his home during the remainder of his short life. He died in 1864.

Harvey and Egbert with their mother and sister Elizabeth came to Rushford about 1842, and bought the house on Main Street now occupied by Clark Woods. In October, 1846, Harvey George was running a "Cheap Cash Store, No. 2 Union Block, at the foot of Main Street." The following May he moved to McCall & Adams's new building, just above the store of Clark McCall. After giving up his store, he married and went to New York. He soon drifted west and old age found him in California where he died in 1902.

Egbert was employed as clerk in the Union Store, and afterward as clerk in the drug store of Congdon & Dickinson. Upon the death of Mr. Congdon in the summer of 1862, the business was sold to McCall & George. Eg-

## The Georges

bert was also a dentist and went by the name of Dr. George both in Rushford and Horseheads where for a time he was engaged in the drug business. He afterward moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, and from thence to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he died in 1901. In 1860 he married Margaret Williams, one of Rushford's dear old school teachers.

The mother died in Rushford in 1849. Elizabeth married and returned to Livonia. Anne died in Newark Valley, the home of the Beechers, some two years after her marriage to Norman Beecher. About 1839, Norman Beecher married Lois George and came to Rushford, where he bought the farm now owned by Mrs. Irene Kendall and occupied by Norton Lane. Clarissa George married Leman Tufts, who died in Rushford in 1849. Their children who spent their younger days in Rushford are Sarah C., wife of Dr. Dickinson, who since the death of her husband some ten years ago, has resided in National City, California; Edgar of Dallas, Oregon; Winfield of Concordia, Kansas, and Charles of National City, California. Clarissa afterwards married Lambert Beecher, a harness maker of Rushford.

"Aunt Jane of Kentucky" says "People used to say that the Crawfords and the Simpsons was like two mud-puddles with a ditch between them—always runnin' together." The same might be said of the Beechers and Georges.

Elizabeth, wife of Allen George, died at the home of her daughter, Clara George Thayer, in February, 1909.

## Rushford Families

### ROBERT MORROW

H. J. W. G.

**I**N early life Robert Morrow lived in Stratford, Fulton County. His father was Irish and his mother Scotch. When he was twenty-one, he started out in life with nothing save the few clothes which he had and a gift of a pair of socks knit for him by his mother. Some time after, in company with others, he built a sawmill in the woods, not far from Stratford. Having lost in this venture all that he had, he used to say, "Partnership is a poor ship to sail in." The sawmill is still called Morrow's mill.

In 1837 he married Mary Jennings. They moved from Stratford to Schoharie where Elizabeth (Mrs. Tarbel Gordon of Topeka, Kansas) was born. Having come to Rushford to visit Smith Slocum, a relative, they decided to move to this place. They returned to Schoharie and sent their goods by canal to Cuylersville, thence by teams to Rushford. On the Fourth of July, 1843, Mr. Morrow and his family came up the Hamilton hill in Centerville on their way to Rushford. Within a year they bought the farm on the Cuba road, afterwards known as the Howard farm. Soon after the purchase, Mr. Morrow overheard some passersby saying, "They can't ever pay for that farm." He went into the house and told his wife; she said, "O I guess we can, other people have paid for theirs and I don't see why we can't, if we work and are careful." When the times for payments came, he always paid the interest, made the payments and had money beside. On this farm, Henrietta (Mrs. Dana Jenison of Tropico, California) and Ida (Mrs. Willis H. Leavens) were born. After living here fourteen years, he sold the place to A. W. E. Damon. Later Mr. Morrow bought of David McKinney the farm

## John W. Hill

on the east road, north from the village, now owned by Benjamin Williams.

Having lived in Fulton County, he was especially interested in cheese making, so he became one of the company to build the Rushford Cheese factory. After selling his interest in the factory, he bought a farm on the Caneadea road, three-quarters of a mile from Rushford village. It is now owned by Mrs. Julia Walker. Here Mr. Morrow died in 1867. The following year Mrs. Morrow moved into the village, having purchased of Dr. O. T. Stacy\* his house on Lower street.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Morrow were for many years members of the Methodist Church. Their daughter, Henrietta, graduated from the Allegany Academy of Music at Friendship.

In Mrs. Morrow's later years her daughter, Mrs. Leavens, returned from Sioux Falls, Dakota, to care for her, and remained with her until Mrs. Morrow's death on August 8, 1899. Mrs. Leavens still lives in the house on Lower Street that belonged to her mother.

## JOHN W. HILL

Jennie W. Bush

**J**OHN W. HILL was the son of John Hill, who moved from Vermont to Middlebury, New York, where John W. was born in 1814. When he was fourteen years old, he came to Centerville with his father who bought a farm near Fairview. He helped his father clear the land and build a dwelling and a barn. After arriving at manhood, he bought the farm now owned by Samuel B. Williams.

\*Dr. O. T. Stacy moved to the John C. Nobles place. It is now owned by John G. James.



## Rushford Families

In 1839 he married Sophia E. McClure, granddaughter of General Joseph McClure, the first settler of Franklinville. He then moved onto the farm he had bought and built a dwelling and barn. He resided here until 1851, when he bought a farm of two hundred and fourteen acres in Rushford, where he moved. The buildings being old and of little value, he proceeded to build another set of buildings. Here he spent the remainder of a useful and active life.

The buildings and the farm today show that he followed his motto, "What you do, do well." Besides doing his own work, he found time to build many buildings for others. These, also, show the substantial manner in which they were erected. He served the town as assessor, highway commissioner and supervisor. He died in 1891.

To John W. and Sophia E. Hill were born seven children, two of whom are now living, John Dezell, who owns and resides on the old homestead, and Wealtha Jane, wife of Watson W. Bush.

## THE THOMASES

John J. Thomas

**W**ILLIAM G. THOMAS was born in Pembrokeshire, South Wales, in 1790. When eighteen years old he learned the carpenter's trade. In 1820 he married Miss Phoebe Reese, who was born in Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, in 1806. He was a member of the Baptist Church at Fishguard and led the singing there for fifteen years. In 1849 he came in a sailing vessel to America; they were thirty-eight days coming from Liverpool to New York. He reached Utica, New York, July 4, 1849, where he worked at his trade. He loved America because here he received

## The Thomases

two dollars a day, while in Wales he received only two shillings (fifty cents) a day. He worked for the same railroad contractor for two years and helped build the first depot and freight house at Watertown, New York. In 1850 he sent to Wales for his wife and children; they lived at Rome until December, 1852. In March, 1853, he rented the Oramel Osborn farm in Centerville. When they left Rome, people said they had gone "out West." The nearest convenient railroad station being at Attica, a distance of thirty miles, a team and wagon were hired to carry the goods to Centerville. The mother and younger children rode while the father and older children walked.

In 1854 he bought and moved onto the Warren McKinney farm on lot thirty-one, in the town of Rushford, where he lived until his death in July, 1878. Phoebe his wife died in August, 1882. The old homestead is now owned by their son John J., the only surviving member of his father's family.

Since the first year that Phoebe Thomas was in America, it began to snow in October, she said to her husband, "If this is America I want to go back to my native land." He replied, "Don't be discouraged, Phoebe, we'll have summer by and by." The ground was not seen until the next April. He was proud of his citizenship in "the land of the free and the home of the brave," and was a staunch Republican, casting his first vote for Millard Fillmore. He was a man of few words and direct to the point; if he had any grievance or praise he went straight to the person with it. When in old age, he loved to sing with his family the hymns he had sung in Wales.

William and Phoebe Thomas were the parents of seven children, Mary P., David W., Benjamin, Elizabeth

## Rushford Families

and Ann (both of whom died young), John J. and Margaret.

Mary P. was born in 1825; she married George P. Thomas in 1852. They lived in Rushford where she died in 1897. Their children were William W., John (deceased), David (deceased), Benjamin F., George H., Luther J. and Edward R.

David W. lived in Shelby, Orleans County, where he died in 1888.

Benjamin married Eliza Hancock. They lived in New York City where he died in 1890. Their children were George (deceased), William H., Clarence B., (deceased), and Grace E.

John J. was born December 2, 1842; in 1849 he married Margaret Roberts of Freedom, Cattaraugus County. To them were born six children: William G., Carrie M. (Mrs. Thompson), Mary R. (deceased), John R., Minnie E. and Homer H. 1

Margaret, born in 1844, married John D. Charles. They lived at Woodstock, Illinois, where she died in March, 1896.

# IV

## THE CHURCHES

### THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RUSHFORD

Compiled by H. J. W. G.

**I**N 1813 religious service was held in Rushford by the Rev. Ephraim Sanford, a Baptist preacher, who went about the country dressed in buckskin and wearing a coon-skin cap from beneath which hung his long black hair. His work was not that of organization, but he preached the gospel to save souls wherever he could find listeners.

November 7, 1815, James McCall, Levi Benjamin, Eliab Going, Joshua L. Delano, and Aaron Capen together with Elder Beckwith, a missionary, organized themselves into a conference with the name Caneadea Regular Baptist Conference. Elder Beckwith and Eliab Going were appointed a committee to draft Articles of Faith and Practice. The brethren met the next day and accepted the report which consisted of twelve Articles of Faith and twelve Articles of Practice. They also decided to hold their covenant meeting the first Saturday of each month.

December 2, 1815, the Articles of Faith and Practice were adopted and subscribed to by the following: James McCall, Levi Benjamin, Joshua L. Delano, Aaron Capen, Eliab Going, Abigail Benjamin, Jerusha Gordon, and Sally Benjamin. The last two did not join in membership. The first Covenant meeting held January 6, 1816, began with prayer and praise, then "the brethren and sisters gave a relation of the exercises of their mind." June 29, 1816, at the request of the Conference a council was called, Elder Nathan Peck, a missionary, presiding, and the First Bap-

## The Churches



Obed T. Wilmot

tist Church of Rushford was organized in "gospel order." The next day the Lord's Supper was first celebrated.

February 20, 1817, five trustees were appointed as follows: First class, James McCall; second class, Jonathan Going and Jeremiah Rappleye; third class, Junia Freeman and Joshua L. Delano. October 7, 1820, it was decided to meet each Thursday evening for prayer. In 1821 the trustees were instructed to select the one hundred acres of land granted by the Holland Purchase Company and to obtain a deed of it. This land was granted to the first church organization in town.

The little church held their meetings from house to



## First Baptist Church of Rushford

house or in a school house until 1817 or 1818 when a meeting-house was built on the north side of West Main Street, on the site of the house now owned by Mrs. Olive M. Persons which is the second dwelling west of the bridge. This was the first meeting-house in the town. The congregations became so large that this small building was inadequate, so in January, 1838, it was resolved to build a house of worship. Brothers Samson Hardy, Nathan Lewis, John Holmes, Milton McCall, and Junia Freeman were the building committee. The house was completed and dedicated the same year. In 1859 the gallery was removed, new windows were put in and the lecture room built on. In 1902 it was re-seated, and in 1908 a foundation of cement blocks was placed under the church and cement porches were built.

In its early history, like other churches of the time, much attention was paid to discipline. The church was "no respecter of persons" in this matter. A committee was appointed to visit a sister because she had been absent from Covenant meeting for several months. They reported that they found her engaged in the vanities of the world with but little hope of returning. Since she was a member of the church in Ovid, the clerk was instructed to acquaint that church with their proceedings. February 21, 1818, the first exclusion occurred. Improper conduct, conversation and company were the cause. In February, 1822, letters of reproof were sent to absent members under censure. The next year a sister made retraction for impudent speeches she had made at a special meeting. September 5, 1825, five were excluded for heresy. In March, 1826, Eleaser Freeman was excluded for refusing to pay Phillip Capen for a cow. In March, 1827, a brother and sister were accused of being intemperate in the use of spirituous liquors, so a committee was sent to visit them. The brother said he

## The Churches

had never been intoxicated but once and that was at the house of a brother. The sister confessed her fault, but both were finally excluded. Ten years later the following resolution was passed: "That we consider that the practice of using ardent spirits as a beverage is immoral."

Notwithstanding the many cases of discipline during the first twenty-five years, one hundred sixty persons were baptized, more than a hundred of them by Elder Absalom Miner. It was during his pastorate that a four day meeting was appointed by the Association at Friendship to be held in Rushford in September, 1831. The meeting continued twenty-one days. People came from far and near, and many were converted. A part of these meetings was held in the Methodist Church, west of the creek, since that was the largest building in the place.

Eliab Going, the first settled pastor, was hired to preach one-half the time at twelve dollars a month to be paid in produce—wheat, eight shillings; corn, five shillings. To defray the expenses of the church each male member paid a poll tax and, in addition, a tax was levied on his property. Land was valued at one dollar an acre, improvements one dollar an acre, money at interest forty dollars a hundred, horses at ten dollars, oxen at six dollars, colts and calves at one dollar and frame barns at twenty-five dollars. In 1844 the salary of the pastor was three hundred dollars for ten months' service. At a business meeting in September, 1845, Father McCall offered the following resolution: That every male member pay one dollar and every female fifty cents, and that each male member report to the financial committee how much he is worth, aside from debts, and an assessment be made to defray church expenses." The church owes a debt of gratitude to James McCall, who was one of the church in its infancy and a loyal, devoted and

## First Baptist Church of Rushford

efficient member until his death in 1856. The salary of the pastor in 1908, was six hundred dollars and the use of the parsonage. The expenses of the church are now met by subscriptions, socials, sales, etc.

January 5, 1832, it was resolved to employ Brother Steadman Searl to find the fuel necessary for one year, make the fires, sweep the house once a week, scrub twice a year, find candles or oil, and light the house when required. Not less than four candles were to be used in an evening, and he was to receive ten dollars for his services. In June, 1851, Chauncey McDonald was hired to keep the house in order, light the house, seat the people, ring the bell, make the fires, etc. When the Rev. Chauncey Wardner closed his pastorate in 1845, Mr. McDonald was sexton; when he returned to Rushford in 1869 Mr. McDonald was still the sexton. Philetus Gratton took care of the church a number of years. Myron Morgan is the present sexton.

At a Covenant meeting in 1848, it was resolved that we dissuade the brethren from uniting with secret societies; so when a letter was granted to E. Chase in July, 1850, it was stated that he was a member of the Rushford Baptist Church in good and regular standing, except that he joined the Odd Fellows against the known wishes of his brethren.

In 1822, '23 and '24 the spiritual state of the church seemed to be low. In February, 1834, a day of fasting and prayer for backsliders was appointed. In June some backsliders returned. 1843, 1857, 1867 and 1877 were years of unusual spiritual prosperity.

Among the Sunday School superintendents may be mentioned D. D. Persons, D. B. Sill, A. M. Taylor whose term of service was thirty-two years, and Obed T. Wilmot, whose labors were cut short by death in September, 1908. The present superintendent is Eben Haynes. The Sunday

## The Churches

School library was secured largely through the efforts of L. H. Mason.

### CLERKS OF THE CHURCH.

Eliab Going .....	1816
Nathan C. Kimball .....	1821
James Going .....	1826
Nathan C. Kimball .....	1831
Bates T. Hapgood .....	1834
Nathan C. Kimball .....	1847
D. B. Sill .....	1861
L. C. Kimball .....	1871
H. A. Kimball .....	1875
A. M. Taylor .....	1881
Mrs. Jennie A. Westcott .....	1907
(L. C. and H. A. Kimball were sons of N. C. Kimball.)	

### LICENTIATES.

Peter Freeman	Peter Mead
Ezra Going	Charles Wilkinson
James Going	Elbert O. Taylor
Eliab Going	I. H. Foster
R. Cherryman	Frank Himes
James McIntyre	Arthur Warren
Edward James	

### LIST OF PASTORS

Titus Gillet (first salaried pastor) .....	1818-1819
Eliab Going (first settled pastor) .....	1821-1829
Absalom Miner .....	1829-1833 1834-1840
Simeon G. Miner (one year) .....	1833-1834
Chauncey Wardner .....	1843-1845
E. L. Harris .....	1845-1850
E. J. Scott .....	1851-1854
I. W. Simpson .....	1854-1863

## Mission Circle "

A. T. Cole .....	1863-1868
Chauncey Wardner .....	1869-1872
A. V. Eddy .....	1872-1876
M. Livermore .....	1876-1883
P. S. Everett .....	1883-1886
W. L. Munger .....	1886-1890
C. B. Smith .....	1890-1892
A. R. Spencer .....	1892-1898
T. P. Poate .....	1899-

Of the present pastor, Rev. T. P. Poate, the Rev. J. G. Macklin, a Methodist minister, once wrote: "His sermons were thoughtful, scholarly and always helpful. His illustrations were selected from wide reading and extensive travel, and served to make the gospel message clear, forceful and practical."

The Rev. S. G. Miner in writing at the time of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Baptist Church spoke of the blessed associations with the Benjamins, Goings, Beckwiths, McCalls, Freemans, Hapgoods, Kimballs, Taylors, Delanos and Capens; and the Rev. C. Wardner in recalling those who were active and strong when he first came to Rushford, mentioned among others the Hardys, the Chamberlains, the Holmes, the Lewises, the Bells, the Westcotts and the Whites; and years hence some one may add the Warrens and Wilmots, the Hayneses and Howards, the Morgans, Masons, Thomases and Clauses.

## MISSION CIRCLE

Jennie A. Westcott

THE command of our Lord to His disciples was, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." And many of his children are today trying to follow this command, among them the members of Mission



## The Churches

Circle of the Baptist Church of Rushford. This Circle was organized March 31, 1887, and after more than twenty years still continues the work then begun. We have studied for our mission lessons nearly every country on the globe, trying to familiarize ourselves with the work that is being done and the needs of the cause everywhere. We have tried to reach some of the dark corners of the earth with our means and our prayers, having sent from our little circle during these years \$758.61 in cash and goods valued at \$524.91. Our present number of annual members is about the same as it has been during the years since organization. Our number of workers is about forty. Our president at this time is our pastor's wife, Mrs. T. P. Poate.

## THE SOCIAL

Jennie A. Westcott

THE eleventh of December, 1883, the ladies of the First Baptist Church of Rushford met in the prayer room of the church for the purpose of organizing themselves into a body to advance the social side of the church and to establish a fund for the benefit of the church and society, hoping thus to promote a feeling of good fellowship as well as to advance the cause of Christ in our midst. This organization was called "The Social of the First Baptist Church of Rushford" and after twenty years of labor, it is still known by that name. Death has visited our ranks but as one after another has been called to "cross the bar" others have been raised to carry on the work. During the years of our labors we have raised and expended the sum of \$1,575. The past year we raised ninety dollars which were used to help in the repairs on our church.

## THE FIRST SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN RUSHFORD.

H. J. W. G.

ELIJAH METCALF was one of the first traveling preachers west of the Genesee River. He joined the Genesee Conference in 1810, the year of its organization, coming as a probationer from the New York Conference. In 1811 he and two others were assigned the Holland Purchase and Caledonia Circuit. While on this circuit he formed the first Methodist class in Rushford at the home of Daniel Woods, father of D. Clark Woods. The members of this class were Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Wilson and Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Woods.

In 1816 the first Methodist Episcopal Church in Rushford was organized with ten members: Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Woods, Mr. and Mrs. William Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Tarbel Gordon, and Mr. and Mrs. James Gordon. About this time William Gordon was licensed to preach and he was an acceptable, earnest, local preacher until his death in April, 1870. His contributions to the church were generous, and his cheering, encouraging exhortations were of inestimable value. Because of his love for the church and to uphold her integrity, he at one time, when the preacher was about to go to Conference with his salary unpaid, sold his last cow and from the proceeds paid the preacher in full.

The first meeting-house was built in 1819, on the south side of Main Street nearly opposite the Baptist meeting-house.

On the 5th day of January, 1835, "publick notice having been given two successive Sabbaths or meeting days," a meeting was held for the purpose of incorporating the



William Gordon

## First Society of M. E. Church

Society, Fuller Atchinson and Daniel Woods, preachers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, being present. Daniel Woods, Samuel Persons, and Tarbel Gordon were elected trustees of the Society to be incorporated; and it was resolved that the Society to be incorporated be known as the First Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Rushford. The Society was incorporated January 14, 1835, when Fuller Atchinson and Daniel Woods appeared before A. S. Allen, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and made oath to the proceedings of the meeting.

Since the meeting-house was too small to accommodate the increasing congregations, in August, 1835, the trustees purchased of Joseph and Esther Young a part of the lot now occupied by the Society, and in 1837 erected a more commodious and imposing church. This church was thirty-eight by fifty feet in size. The entrance was at the north end, into a vestibule with stairs at the right and the left leading into a gallery and to a room used for prayer and class meetings. Two doors opened from the vestibule into the audience room; between the doors was the pulpit; in the northeast and northwest corners were stoves with seats on three sides. The choir sat in the gallery at the south end of the church; and the congregation, with the men on the east side and the women on the west side, sat facing the doors; this probably induced early attendance at church. Here the people worshiped until about 1854.

At an official meeting in 1852, the following persons being present, Rev. C. L. Cheney, John Lamberson, Israel Thompson, Isaac Stone, John Worthington, Robert Morrow, Amos Peck, R. S. Goff, Levi Metcalf, Rufus Adams, C. A. Wiltse, and A. Washburn, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

## The Churches

Whereas, by the blessing and favor of Almighty God, our congregations have become quite too large to be accommodated in our present house of worship, and whereas, under the smiles of a beneficent Providence our members and friends generally have enjoyed temporal prosperity, therefore,

Resolved, that it has become our sacred and impressive duty to use our best endeavors for the erection of a house of suitable dimensions for the accommodation of all who may desire to meet with us in the worship of God,

Resolved, that William Gordon and the Rev. C. L. Cheney be appointed a committee to draft and circulate a subscription paper, collect funds and solicit contributions for the above named purpose.

The Rev. C. L. Cheney did not stay in Rushford long enough to complete what he had begun, but the Rev. Sanford Hunt took up the work and with the help of others carried it on to completion.

On January 10, 1855, the new church was dedicated. The first service consisted of singing by the choir, reading of the Scripture by the Rev. C. D. Burlingham, dedicatory sermon by the Rev. Henry Ryan Smith from the text "And the ark of the Lord continued in the house of Obed-edom and the Lord blessed Obed-edom and all his household," anthem, "I was glad when they said unto me let us go into the House of the Lord" by the choir, and benediction by the Rev. Ira Simpson. The church was not large enough to contain all the people who came to attend the service. In the evening the Rev. Benjamin T. McNeal preached to another large congregation.

The southeast corner of this church was the "Amen Corner." When the preacher touched upon Christian experience there would be hearty response from this corner;



## First Society of M. E. Church

among those seated here were William Gordon, R. S. Goff, John Worthington, Levi Metcalf, Elijah Metcalf, Isaac Stone, Aaron Rice, Ely Woods, E. S. Noble, John Boyce, John Lamberson, Robert Morrow, Samuel Persons, Wilson Gordon, Frank Warren, Frank E. Woods, and Warren Persons; in the body of the church were Israel Thompson and daughter Mary, John, Alonzo and Hosea Persons with their families; J. B. Gordon and family; A. W. E. and A. H. Damon with their families; Alfred Smith and wife; and many others. All but one whose names are mentioned have passed from the church militant to the church triumphant.

November 5, 1850, a resolution was passed to have six trustees. S. Y. Hammond was re-elected. The others were A. Washburn, John Lamberson, Ely Woods, Amos Peck, and William Gordon. The following resolution was also passed: "Resolved that the trustees be instructed to pay R. S. Goff \$25 for which sum said Goff is to furnish wood and candles, sweep the house, build the fires and see that the house is kept sufficiently warm during the ordinary services of the church, light the house for evening meetings, and also find wood for singing school, in case there should be one, for one year commencing November 7, 1850." The records were signed by Ely Woods, chairman, and A. Washburn, secretary. At the next trustee meeting, November 7, 1851, S. Y. Hammond resigned and A. W. E. Damon was elected in his place. Samuel Hopkins was hired to care for the church; he received \$21 for six months' service. December 1, 1866, the trustees were A. H. Damon, D. H. Woods, Clarke Rice, Wolcott F. Griffin, Spencer Packard, A. W. E. Damon, D. C. Woods, Israel Thompson, and Charles Benjamin. Only D. C. Woods survives and he has been a trustee ever since. The board of trustees in 1904 consisted of C. H. Ives, Myron Claus, John G. James, A.

## The Churches

W. Litchard, D. C. Woods, Martin Lyon, A. L. Litchard, Wm. Beaumont, and James G. Benjamin. C. H. Ives was chairman and J. G. Benjamin secretary of the board.

Beginning with 1845 there have been but four recording stewards—A. Washburn, 1845-1864; A. W. E. Damon, 1864-1867; W. F. Woods, 1867-1872; J. G. Benjamin, 1872 to the present time.

The first parsonage was built in 1840, on the ground now owned by the Masons between their house and the creek. The next parsonage, the present one, was purchased in 1865. The first minister to occupy it was Milton H. Rice through whose labors and those of his estimable wife was experienced one of the largest and most successful revivals that has occurred since the building of the present church. They also organized a Normal Class for Sunday School teachers, the first in the Genesee Conference. This organization was continued until 1896.

The Sunday School in 1866 was the largest in the history of the church. The report to the Quarterly Conference dated September 17, 1866, was as follows:

1865.

Pupils .....	140
Average attendance .....	113
Officers and teachers .....	20
Infant class .....	30
Total attendance.....	190

1866.

Pupils .....	200
Average attendance .....	173
Officers and teachers .....	23
Infant class .....	32
Total attendance.....	255

## First Society of M. E. Church

The same year the following collections on the pastor's salary were reported by class leaders at a Quarterly Conference: William Gordon's class, \$24.50; Ely Woods' class, \$26.03; John Worthington's class, \$11.00; D. C. Woods' class, \$32.42; John Boyce's class, \$10.50; E. S. Noble's class, \$6.00; Walter Adams'\* class, \$2.00. Total, \$112.45.

It was during the pastorate of M. H. Rice that Mrs. Harriet Griffin (Mrs. Wolcott Griffin) came to the church. She was especially gifted in conducting meetings for children. At these meetings held each Sunday evening before preaching service, Bible stories illustrated by pictures, the catechism and hymns of the church were taught, and Christian testimony encouraged. Songs, printed in large type, were hung upon the wall. In one of the songs were the words:

"Though we may forget the singer,  
We will not forget the song;"

but neither singer nor song are forgotten. Some who attended those meetings are active in the church today. In after years, Mrs. M. H. Rice said that for principle, loyalty to duty, and love for God and humanity, the Rushford church had not its superior in the Genesee Conference at the time that she and Mr. Rice became identified with it

The following persons have been licensed as preachers and exhortors: S. Y. Hammond, John De La Matyr, Gilbert De La Matyr, Walter De La Matyr, R. S. Goff, John Worthington, Samuel Hopkins, John C. Nobles, Wm. H. Kellogg, Levi Metcalf, Marlin Lyon, Walter Gordon, De Bias Worthington, M. C. Dean, J. Frank Warren, Albert K. Damon, Frank E. Woods, Lowell Farwell, Warren Persons, Allen C. Burr, R. S. Hurd, Nathan W. Warren, Charles Daley, Henry C. Woods, Luther Jenison, Charles

\*Lived in Lyndon.

## The Churches

M. Damon, N. McIntyre, L. A. Stevens, R. Y. Renwick, Fletcher Wells, and Thomas Atwell. When there were a number of local preachers in the church, the preacher in charge after he had finished his sermon, would frequently be followed by one or more local preachers in exhortation.

A majority of those who have joined the church have been converted through revival efforts, though there have been times when conversions at the regular services were not rare. The conversion of James Bell, one of the brightest in the history of the church, is an illustration of the passage of Scripture, "Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee." James was asked by a companion to go into Sunday School; when he refused, he was told to "go to Hell, then." This ungracious remark led to serious thinking and resulted in his conversion.

Those present at the dedication and also present at the fiftieth anniversary of the present church edifice, were Mrs. Cornelia Metcalf, Mrs. Mary Thompson Gordon, Miss Ellen E. Gordon, D. Clark Woods, and James G. Benjamin.

A. L. Litchard is the superintendent, Greydon R. Davis the secretary, Ely Millikin the librarian, Mrs. Jennie W. Gordon the chorister, and Mrs. Minnie Woods the organist of the present Sunday School (1909-1910); the average attendance is sixty-five and the average collection is a dollar and thirty cents. The present pastor, the Rev. F. A. Johnson, is an excellent sermonizer and a man of pleasing address and exemplary life. Of the original members, Joshua Wilson and Daniel Woods are represented in the membership of today by Mrs. Ella Woods Claus, Mrs. Jennie Woods Gordon, and D. Will Woods; William Gordon by Miss Ellen E. Gordon; James Gordon by James G. Benjamin, and Tarbel Gordon by Miss Inez Leavens and Lloyd Gordon.

# First Society of the M. E. Church

## NAMES OF PASTORS.

Cyrus Story .....	1820-21
James Hazen, Philetus Parkus .....	1822
John P. Kent, Jonathan E. Davis.....	1823
John Arnold, John P. Kent .....	1824
Daniel Shepardson, Menzer Doud .....	1825
Daniel Shepardson, Mifflin Harker .....	1826
Elijah Boardman, Mifflin Harker .....	1827

## RUSHFORD AND FRIENDSHIP.

John Wiley, Ira Bronson, Sheldon Doolittle	1828
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## RUSHFORD.

John Wiley, Daniel Anderson .....	1829
John Cosart John Stainton .....	1830
John Cosart, Philo E. Brown .....	1831

## PIKE AND RUSHFORD.

Reeder Smith, Samuel Wooster, Wm. D. Buck	1832
Samuel Wooster, Daniel Anderson, Carlos Gould, Fuller Atchinson .....	1833

## RUSHFORD AND FRIENDSHIP.

Fuller Atchinson, Abram F. Waller.....	1834
Augustine Anderson, Frances Strang.....	1835

## RUSHFORD.

Horatio N. Seaver, Carlos Gould .....	1836
Abram C. DuBois, John M. Bell .....	1837
Abram C. DuBois .....	1838
Orrin F. Comfort .....	1839-40
David Nichols .....	1841-42
Nathan Fellows .....	1843-44
Chas D. Burlingham .....	1845-46



## The Churches

Chauncey S. Baker .....	1847
John McEwen .....	1848-49
Charles Shelling .....	1850
Benjamin T. Roberts .....	1851
C. L. Cheney, supply .....	1852
Sandford Hunt .....	1853-54
Milo Scott .....	1855-56
Jason G. Miller .....	1857-58
George W. Terry .....	1859
Wm. S. Tuttle .....	1860-61
John McEwen .....	1862
George G. Lyon, John McEwen .....	1863
Milton H. Rice .....	1864-66
Edward A. Rice .....	1867-68
William Blake .....	1869
E. Lansing Newman .....	1870-71
Appointed P. E. April 17, 1872, Carlton C. Wilbur supply.	
Zenas Hurd .....	1872-73
Roswell K. Pierce .....	1874-75
Otis M. Leggett .....	1876-77
Chas S. Daley .....	1878
William McGavern .....	1879-80
William B. Wagoner .....	1881-83
Asa H. Johnson .....	1884-86
R. C. Grames .....	1887-88
James E. Wallace .....	1889-90
Withdrew from conference July, 1891, J. A. Gardner supply.	

### RUSHFORD AND CANEADEA (1892)

Thomas W. Chandler .....	1891-94
William H. Manning .....	1895
Mark Kelley .....	1896-98
David L. Pitts .....	1899

## First Society of the M. E. Church

Thomas C. Bell .....	1900-01
John G. Macklin .....	1902-03
William L. Clough .....	1904
David White .....	1905-06
Frank A. Johnson .....	1907-08

The Genesee Conference has been held in Rushford twice. The first time September 25 to October 2, 1850. Bishop Waugh presided, Rev. J. M. Fuller secretary, Rev. Chas. Shelling pastor. The second conference was held October 1 to October 6, 1863. Bishop Matthew Simpson presided, Rev. A. D. Wilbor secretary, Rev. John McEwen pastor. Bishop Waugh said he thought the people of so small a village must have large hearts to entertain the Conference.

Rushford Circuit was formed in 1820.

Pike and Rushford Circuit included Haight (New Hudson), Rushford, Centerville, Belfast, Caneadea, Hume, Pike, Eagle, Gainesville, and Castile.

In 1851 the name Rushford District was changed to Olean District

### REMINISCENCES BY FRANK ENEAS WOODS

I remember the days of the building of this church. We were very fortunate in our pastor, Dr. Sandford Hunt. He was a financier and a builder. In the winter of 1853 and 1854, just fairly settled in the parsonage, he, with Elder William Gordon, our most liberal and well-to-do member of the official board, were driving about through the snow drifts, getting subscriptions for the new church. The enterprise was pushed. The minister watched the progress of the work and with his coat off assisted the workmen. Such an all round preacher, scholar and financier is seldom seen. No accident marred the work, but when the tower was being

## The Churches

erected, a beam slid from its height and just missed our dear brother, Clark Woods, who, working below, was spared to fill out a long life of usefulness. In about a year from the undertaking the edifice was completed.

The church, I believe, was dedicated practically free from debt. The choir, led by Avery Washburn and Milton Woods, had been practicing for several weeks and rendered anthems to the delight of the large audience.

### REMINISCENCES BY ESTHER WOODS ELDRIDGE.

I was at the dedication and a beautiful service we had and a crowded house, full to overflowing. Brother Edward Pratt remarked that it would probably never be so full again. The friend he was addressing said, "O, it will be perhaps, when some noted and worthy man dies." And sure enough, it was when in a few weeks, Brother Pratt himself was taken so suddenly from us, but our loss was his gain. As we came down from the audience room, Mrs. Boardman said she would like to know who would be the first to be buried from there and sure enough, it was her own self. How strange!

But I have not time to write or you time to listen to all I might write. But fifty years ago the class meeting was a great success with Brother John Worthington to invite people in. The Holy Spirit, it seems to me, was always there and love prevailed. Faces were lit by Heavenly light and Brother Goff would commence and sing his pet verse:

"Here I'll raise mine Ebenezer  
Hither by Thy help I come,  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure  
Safely to arrive at home."

He has already arrived in the home prepared for him

## First Society of the M. E. Church

and his sainted wife, Sophia. Praise the Lord. You remember he always in love feast said, the last quarter had been the best in his life. I wish all Methodists would try to be able to say the same. Amen.

When I think of the church fifty years ago, Brother Israel Thompson, our staid standard bearer, is foremost in the picture. Brother Washburn in class would sing with fervor, "My Days are Gliding Swiftly By," but he is still spared, wonderfully spared, and no doubt can still sing the same song.

Fifty years ago we had exhorters and they used to wake us up. They had encouragement and held meetings in school houses. Father loved to sing, "On Jordan's stormy banks I stand and cast a wistful eye to Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie," and once Father Metcalf said to him in class meeting, "When I die I want Brother Woods to sing that at my funeral," and he did.

But I need not write more. We old ones can see Brother Stone with tears filling his eyes as he related his experience and referred to his sweet wife as the one under God who assisted him into the Kingdom. Mother's especial gift was in prayer. Her prayers, to me, seemed to reach the very throne and were heard and answered. Rushford church sent out some able ministers; some died in prison and died triumphantly and went home to Glory.

REMINISCENCES BY REV. T. W. CHANDLER.

It was in the closing hour of our conference at Dansville, October 6, 1891, when every ear was attent to catch the name of place and pastor as Bishop Andrews deliberately read the appointments, that I heard this announcement, deeply impressive to me: "Rushford—T. W. Chandler." On the following Saturday I left Smethport, Pa., for my new ap-

## The Churches

pointment. Leaving the train at Caneadea, I asked for the Rushford stage. A good, honest-faced man, looking me over with an inquisitive eye, answered, "I suppose you are our new preacher, that we are looking for today." I confessed to the indictment and took a seat with him, for it was none other than Brother Clark Rice who at that time drove the stage. I had never been in Rushford previous to this. Every preacher remembers the feeling experienced in going to a new charge, as he looks the town over, being often very conscious that he himself is as thoroughly being looked over by the people. I was driven to the home of Brother Grover Pratt, where I was very kindly entertained and the warm hospitality accorded me by the family soon drove away all thoughts of my being a stranger, and almost convinced me that I had always known them.

The Sabbath congregation was large, not an unusual thing on the opening day of a new preacher, and attentive, and my four years in Rushford only deepened the impression of that first Sabbath, that I had an unusually intelligent and attentive audience before me. The choir had always had the reputation of being far above the average of church choirs in its ability and in its harmony. How else could it be with its fine personnel and under the leadership of that prince of choir leaders, Brother Milton Woods? They were equally fortunate in an organist, Clara Claus, always faithful and in her place, sunshine or storm, until one dark, gloomy Sabbath in October, 1893, when her place was vacant and it was whispered through the audience as they assembled for worship, "She is dying!" The hymns were sung that day without the organ. Our last number was "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah." It was learned afterward that the time of her death was almost exactly coincident with the singing of the last stanza:



## First Society of the M. E. Church

“When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
    Bid my anxious fears subside;  
    Bear me through the swelling current,  
    Land me safe on Canaan’s side.  
Songs of praises,  
    I will ever give to thee.”

One short week and that dreaded scourge of diseases, diphtheria, had done its work and her pure, sweet life went out, leaving only its rare fragrance in the sad and desolate home. Her successor, Lena Hall, was faithful and efficient. Just six months after entering on her service she, too, with equal suddenness, though not by the same malady, was summoned from her earthly life and friends. Again the organ was draped in love and grief for the absent one. Mrs. Prof. Walters very kindly consented to act as organist the remainder of the year and rendered most acceptable service.

The Sabbath School was, during my entire pastorate, under the wise and efficient superintendency of Brother A. W. Litchard. It was a strong right arm to the church. How could it be otherwise with such a corps of teachers as Mrs. John Persons, Mrs. J. B. Gordon, Mrs. Laning, Mrs. Helen Gilbert, Ellen Gordon, Mrs. W. W. Merrill, Mrs. Jennie Gordon, Flora Lyon, Miss Hyde, since become Mrs. A. M. Tarbell, Dr. Wells and others?

Whatever decadence may have come to the class meeting in other places, no such charge can be urged against the Rushford church. Few churches in the Conference have more thoroughly kept alive the original spirit and intent of the class meeting than has Rushford. Brother Clark Woods is the veteran class leader of the church; he was present at the dedication fifty years ago and is still active and joyous in the service, reminding us of one of old, of whom it was

## The Churches

said: "his eye was not dimmed nor his natural force abated." Brothers Myron Claus and Martin Lyon have long been, as they still are, his zealous co-workers.

The 6 o'clock Sunday evening meetings, as well as the Thursday evening meetings, were well attended and were seasons of great profit, while the love feasts and quarterly meetings were unusual seasons of blessing. The Ladies' Aid Society was well organized and a very helpful factor in church work. Among its presidents I recall Ellen Gordon and Mrs. Arlie Ives. The Rushford Quarterly Conference often elicited from the Presiding Elders the remark of its being a strong official boon. Of its deliberations, Brother James Benjamin has for a long time been its careful recorder. Flora Lyon entered upon her work as a deaconess and her larger life of usefulness, during the four years. About the same time Dr. Wells united with the Genesee Conference.

My relations with Pastors Smith and Spencer of the Baptist Church were of the most fraternal character. I recall with great pleasure the principals of the High School, Profs. McGuire, White and Walters, with their assistant teachers. I always admired the pride which the Rushford people took in their school, and its prosperity. After noting the large number it has sent out and the impress of intelligence and refinement it has left on the community, they have good reasons for being proud of its history.

One morning shortly after my coming to Rushford, I met down street a bright little fellow striding along with a wooden gun on his shoulder. "Good morning, Sir!" was my salutation, "What are you going to shoot now?" His prompt reply was, "I'm hunting for bears!" How he came out with the bears, I never heard, but he certainly had shot ahead successfully for one of the numbers on the semi-

## The Remodeling of the M. E. Church

centennial program was a fine address by Allan Gilbert, the president of the Epworth League.

The first year I held services almost every Sabbath afternoon at Hardy's Corners. The second year Caneadea was united to Rushford and has remained so ever since. A sad thought to me, as I suppose it was with all of the former pastors present, was the memory of the absent ones, the faces once so familiar but never again to be seen in this world. It comes to me like the minor chord in the joyous strains of an anthem. How their faces come back to me! Milton Woods and wife, John Persons and wife, Hosea and Alonzo Persons, Mrs. Myra Ann Farwell, Daniel Woods and that warm friend of the church, J. B. Gordon, Clark Rice, Brother John Beaumont, Mrs. Griffith, Mrs. Chas. Benjamin, Grandma Swift, Mrs. O'Connor, Mrs. Marietta Kellogg, Mrs. Morrow and others whose names are written in heaven. And while thinking of these I cannot forget the living and the homes with which are linked so many pleasant memories.

## THE REMODELING OF THE M. E. CHURCH AT RUSHFORD, NEW YORK

We've been up to the M. E. Church,  
We've climbed its stairs once more;  
But we stopped and gazed in wonder  
As we stepped within the door.

For lo! some skilled magicians,  
With true decorative art,  
Have given the dear old structure  
A complete "change of heart."

## The Churches

The pews are rich and ornate,  
Placed in semi-circular style;  
And all the faithful pilgrims  
Wear, a sort of—circular smile.

For they've labored long and patient,  
To perfect and re-arrange  
Their modest place of worship;  
And they glory in the change.

You can claim no more the backache  
As excuse to stay away,  
With all those high-backed settles,  
Just inviting you to stay.

Now all the little boys and girls,  
Must mind their p's and q's;  
And do just as they're told to do,  
While sitting in such pews.

The walls and frescoed ceilings  
Are so restful to the eye;  
Small wonder if some members  
Weren't caught napping on the sly.

We never s'posed we'd live to see  
This change, so grandly wrought:  
The plain, old-fashioned church for us  
Was good enough, we thought.

But now, we find that modern ways  
Are well to emulate;  
'Tis best to have our churches  
Kept quite strictly up to date.

## Ladies Aid Society

Yes,—they've held a grand old rally,  
And old pastors far and near  
Came to praise the earnest workers;  
And bring to all God's cheer.

They put heart and soul into their sermons  
With an eloquence pure and high;  
Pictured 'life as not all of living,'  
Nor, is it "all of death to die."

For we know there is a heaven  
Which begins down here below;  
Where love to God and all mankind  
Straight from the heart doth flow.

There's a "gateway" too—man can't improve,  
Although, it's oft been tried;  
Great men have pondered over it,  
And studied 'till they died.

It shines undimmed by ages,  
Like gold refined from dross;  
'Tis the "way" to the Kingdom of Heaven  
By the SYMPHONY of the Cross.

1906.

## LADIES' AID SOCIETY

Ellen E. Gordon

OCTOBER 26, 1881, a few lady members and friends of the Methodist Episcopal Church met at the home of Mrs. Asa Worden to consider the question of organizing a Ladies' Aid Society in connection with the work of the



## The Churches

church, the object of which should be to aid the church in every way possible in the promotion of the gospel, to raise funds by proper and Christian means and appropriate them to such purposes as the society should deem best. November 9 the ladies met at the home of Mrs. G. M. Pratt. The constitution and by-laws framed at the meeting at Mrs. Worden's two weeks before were adopted and the following officers chosen: President, Mrs. Helen Laning; First Director, Mrs. J. B. Gordon; Second Director, Mrs. A. Worden; Secretary, Mrs. G. M. Pratt; Treasurer, Mrs. W. H. Leavens. The Board of Managers consisted of the regularly elected officers and Mrs. W. B. Wagoner and Miss Minerva E. O'Conner. The Committee on Fancy Work were Miss Emma Claus, Miss Erna Wier and Miss Mary Pratt. The amount raised at this meeting was \$5.97.

The first year of the society there were seventy-eight members. Each one paid ten cents per month, except the lady at whose house the society met. Of the original seventy-eight members there are thirty-seven living. The whole amount raised the first year amounted to \$124.07. At the suggestion of Rev. W. B. Wagoner, the pastor, the society assumed the debt of the six hundred dollars remaining unpaid upon the pipe organ. November 23, 1887, the constitution was amended to make the board of managers consist of the officers and the ex-presidents.

In 1888, while Rev. R. C. Grames was pastor and Mrs. A. J. Lyon president of the society, the church was repaired to the amount of six hundred dollars, of which the ladies furnished \$557.00. The windows were bought with some of the money left by the will of Miss Electa Lamberson. The lettering upon the pipes of the organ was the work of Rev. R. C. Grames. Through the efforts of Mrs. Lyon the chandelier was purchased at a cost of a hundred and

## Ladies Aid Society

eighty-five dollars. Just before it was received and while all were doing their best to be ready for the re-opening of the church, clouds and darkness closed around the last days of August, for on the twenty-eighth a Higher Power bade us pause. "My ways are not your ways, saith the Lord." Truly we felt they were not, for how could we be parted from our beloved president who had been an inspiration to us all through the year. Pleasantly and eagerly did she devise ways and means to have every member interested in doing her share of church work. To us her life's mission seemed incomplete, to the Father doubtless her mission was as complete as though she had lived her three-score years and ten. On November 5, 1902, while the Rev. T. W. Chandler was pastor, Mrs. William Griffith was chosen president for the second time. March 17 clouds and darkness hung over us again. The Lord said to Mrs. Griffith, "Thy work is done, come up higher."

In 1905, while Rev. David White was pastor, Miss Ellen E. Gordon was chosen president for the fourth time. This year a thorough repair of the church was made to the amount of \$2,831.75. This amount includes the value of the pews, the choir chairs and the bell. The Ladies' Aid gave three hundred dollars toward the repairs of the church at this time.

In 1907, while Rev. F. A. Johnson was pastor, Mrs. W. H. Leavens was chosen president. Since the society was organized in 1881 there have been seventeen presidents of whom eleven are still living. The society has raised \$3,118.12 in twenty-eight years, the largest amount any one year being \$232.04. Without wishing to boast, we count the Ladies' Aid Society a success, spiritually, socially and financially, and trust it may be kept alive as long as the church remains and that it may receive the approbation of the Lord.

## The Churches

May his blessing rest upon it in the future as in the past.

The officers in 1908 were: President, Mrs. W. H. Leavens; Secretary, Mrs. C. H. Ives; Treasurer, Miss Ellen E. Gordon.

### EPWORTH LEAGUE—1895-1910

H. J. W. G.

THE Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Rushford was organized at the suggestion of Mrs. John Persons, during the early part of the pastorate of the Rev. W. H. Manning, who was its first president; other members of the cabinet were Mrs. H. J. Walter, Miss Etta Filer and Mrs. E. C. Gilbert. The attendance of those who made no profession of religion has from the first been unusually large. At the same hour of the Epworth League service a class meeting was held in another room of the church. The church membership was not large enough to support two strong meetings at the same hour; so when the Rev. Mark Kelley was pastor, he advised the evening class to be given up and the members to join the Epworth League; since some of the members were so attached to the class meeting, this was not accomplished until the Rev. T. C. Bell was pastor. Then the League took on new life, since there was a combination of the ripeness of maturity and the freshness of youth; the ministry of song and modern ideas were joined to depth of religious experience.

When the Rev. J. G. Macklin was pastor, the League reached its height, the room at times not being large enough to contain all who came. The Rev. Macklin left the management of the League to the cabinet but he was always present at the devotional meeting to give a short, cheery and

## Free Baptist Church

helpful talk. It was during his pastorate that, at stated times, talks upon "Old Masters," illustrated by pictures, were given by the first vice president, followed by addresses by the pastor upon "Great Religious Leaders."

Social gatherings with unique programs, under the direction of a committee with Mrs. A. M. Tarbell as chairman, have been given in Agricultural Hall. Under the auspices of the League Miss Clara Mills from the Buffalo Deaconess Home came to the church in December, 1909, and gave interesting addresses upon her work. The League is strong enough to carry on devotional meetings without reading from clippings or periodicals. The average attendance is about forty-two.

### Present Officers (1909-10).

President.....	Greydon R. Davis
First Vice President.....	Mrs. E. C. Gilbert
Second Vice President.....	Miss Nora Crocker
Third Vice President.....	Miss Eunice Bullock
Fourth Vice President.....	Mrs. A. M. Tarbell
Secretary.....	Miss Mary Johnson
Treasurer.....	Clare R. Davis
Organist.....	Miss Ethelyn Woods
Assistant Organist.....	Miss May Brady

## THE FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH IN RUSHFORD

**T**HIS church was organized December 11, 1830, at the home of Pomeroy Johnson, by Amos C. Andrus. There were six constituent members.

At a meeting held February 4, 1837, at Elder Thomas

NOTE—Taken from records loaned by Albert Rossman, clerk of the Freewill Baptist Church at Rawson.

## The Churches

L. Pratt's, the church in Rushford requested to join the church in Lyndon, and the following persons were received by the church in Lyndon: William Lillibridge, Naaman Swallow, Sister Swallow, Sister Harvy, Lydia Pratt and Parthenia Thirds.

### THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

H. J. W. G.

AFTER public notice had been given, a goodly number of people assembled in the schoolhouse on West Main Street April 16, 1838, for the purpose of organizing a Presbyterian Church in Rushford. Those present from out of town were the Rev. Lemual Hall of Centerville, the Rev. A. S. Allen of Cuba, the Rev. Phineas Smith of Portageville, and James R. Bell and James Simons, elders of the Presbyterian Church in New Hudson. The church was organized with nineteen members: Eneas Gary, Esther Gary, Earl Baird, Ruth Baird, Joel Griffin, Clarissa Griffin, Submit Griffin, Sarah McDonald, Warren McKinney, Betsy McKinney, Alvin Congdon, Rowena Congdon, Lyman Congdon, Fanny Morrison, Rosina McCall, Alfred Bell, Juliette Bell, Huldah McCall and Electa McKinney. Alfred Bell was chosen clerk, and Earl Baird, Joel Griffin and Lyman Congdon elders. A resolution was passed favoring temperance; and a committee was appointed to secure a minister for each communion, and to raise funds to defray expenses.

The church was received under the care of the Presbytery of Angelica, April 17, 1838. The Rev. Royal Twitchell, the first pastor, officiated under the patronage of the American Home Missionary Society.

In 1842, a church valued at \$2,000, with a seating ca-



## The Presbyterian Church

capacity of about 300, was built on Main Street nearly opposite the Methodist Episcopal Church. In the interior two doors opened from the hall into the body of the church. The high pulpit was placed between the doors, and across the opposite end of the room was a narrow, enclosed platform for the choir. The square-looking pews with numbers on the doors were so arranged that the congregation was able to see those entering without turning their heads.

The first pastor in the new church was the Rev. C. W. Gillan, a man much beloved. It was in 1843, during his pastorate, that a revival occurred resulting in the "hopeful conversion of about forty individuals." Many were then added to the church, some of whom in later years became helpful members of Presbyterian churches elsewhere. The following invitation will be of interest to some readers: "Mr. O. Board and lady are respectfully invited to attend a Donation Party at the residence of the Rev. C. W. Gillan on the afternoon and evening of Thursday, the 18th Inst.

### Managers.

Joel Griffin	Geo. Green
G. Leavens	A. S. Barnum
Wm. B. Alley	Nelson McCall
O. M'Kinney	Sam'l Blanchard
S. F. Dickenson	Daniel Leavens
Wm. M'Call	Wm. Woodworth
G. L. Walker	Samuel Gordon

Rushford, May 11th, 1843."

"Father" Hammond, one of God's saints upon earth, though he could not hear the sermon, was always in his pew on the Lord's day. By watching the lips of the preacher, he was able to tell the text. This he meditated upon during the preaching of the Word. When the service was ended,

## The Churches

the Rev. Mr. Gillan would hand him the written sermon to peruse. At the mid-week service, when "Father" Hammond lifted up his voice in prayer, it seemed as if

"Heaven came down his soul to greet  
And glory crowned the mercy seat."

When the time for testimony came, "Uncle Joel" always "did his duty" in a peculiar though not unpleasant voice. He loved to sing that sweet old hymn, "Naomi," and scarcely a prayer meeting was allowed to pass without his starting "Father, whate'er of earthly bliss thy sovereign will deny."

The choir of the church was considered excellent. Titus Bartlett, Norman Beecher and Allen George, at different times, with the aid of a tuning fork, led the singing. Other singers were Mrs. Matilda Gordon Green, Mrs. Caroline Brooks Allen and Mrs. Hitchcock, a sister of Joel Griffin.

In 1846 the church membership was 116, having increased 88 in six years. Mrs. Achsah Griffin Champlain said that in 1848 the church was flourishing, and was attended by many of the prominent people in the town. The Rev. Samuel A. Rawson was then the pastor. He was followed by the Rev. Mr. Doolittle who agreed with the Apostle Paul that women should keep silent in the churches, so for a period their voices were heard only in song. Other pastors were the Rev. Messrs. Miller, Henry, Johnson, Lane, Frost, Ballard, Cofrin, Lane, Spencer, Ward, Watkins and Cone. The Rev. Mr. Cone served the church in 1889-90.

In 1853 the church became Congregational, but in 1867 it returned to the Presbyterian fold.

At one time the ladies of the congregation to improve their finances served public dinner in the old store in the Adams Block. One of the ladies when searching for her

## The Wesleyan Methodist Church

belongings asked if any of the gang knew where they were. "Gang!" said Mrs. Philinda Brooks, "in other churches it is brother and sister but here it is 'gang.'"

When the church was unable to support a pastor, Mrs. Cynthia Woodworth by reading the sermons of eminent preachers held the congregation together. The church was declared extinct in 1897. When the building was offered for sale, one of the sisters to whom it was very dear, bought it; but later it was purchased by a stock company and given the name Agricultural Hall. The pews were sold. The steeple and upper half of the blinds have been removed, but it is still white, with green blinds. It is used as a meeting place for various orders, for social gatherings of different organizations, for a town hall and as a gathering place for the discussion of matters of interest to the farmer.

(The Father Hammond referred to in the foregoing paper was the father of S. Y. Hammond who was once a member of the Genesee Conference. When S. Y. Hammond lived in Rushford, he was a carpenter. He helped build for Israel Thompson the house on Main Street now owned by Miss Julia Thompson.)

## THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH

H. J. W. G.

THE Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America was organized at Utica, N. Y., May 31, 1843. Opposition to slavery was a principal cause of its organization. Probably within a year after the meeting at Utica, the Rev. P. Norris came to Rushford and held meetings in the Podonque schoolhouse which resulted in the organization of a Wesleyan Methodist Church. Among the first members were

## The Churches

the Rev. Daniel Woods and wife and daughter Laura Cornelia (Mrs. Edwin R. Weaver), Lyman Hubbard and wife, Randolph Heald and wife, and David Kinney and wife. Early preachers were F. R. Martin, S. Phinney, Z. T. Petty and Alanson Bixby. At one time the circuit consisted of East Rushford, Higgins, Caldwells and South Hill; now there are only two places in the appointment—Rush Creek and Bellville, New Hudson. The church was much weakened by the Civil War; but after some years it took on new life. The parsonage is at East Rushford but there never was a church edifice there, the meetings being held in the schoolhouse. The church at Bellville was built in 1901 when the Rev. G. W. Sibley was pastor and that at Rush Creek in 1903 when the Rev. G. O. Bruce was pastor. Clair Baker of Marshall is the Sunday School superintendent, and Clair Baker, Colonel Baker and Howard Luce are the trustees of the church on Rush Creek. The membership of this church is only eighteen, but the blessing of fellowship, the outgrowth of spirituality, prevails.

(Much of the matter for this paper was furnished by the present pastor, the Rev. J. F. Wright.—H. J. W. G.)

## THE UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Ellen Green Nye

THE first I remember of the Universalist Church is attending a meeting with my mother and father in the old district schoolhouse which stood opposite my present residence on West Main Street. I could not have been more than three years old but it was made very impressive by my being taken home and punished for unchurchly behavior. It must have been about 1846. Elder Hunt was then the

## The Universalist Church

pastor and the parsonage was the house now owned by William Beaumont. Soon after this the Universalist Church was built. A goodly number of people attended that church and good work was done. The preachers who ministered to them at different times were Nathaniel Stacy, ——— Hunt, J. B. Saxe, J. J. Brayton, J. Whitney, I. B. Sharp and Wm. Gowdy. Some of them preached the second term. Elder Whitney built the house that N. J. Gilbert now owns. A daguerrean shop which he built on the same lot was moved across the street and used by Edward Brooks as a shoe shop. Those who were prominent in building up the church were Isaiah Lathrop, Galusha Leavens, Charles Colburn, James Green, Alpheus Howser, Samuel White, Luther Woodworth, Emerson Kendall, Oliver Benjamin, E. P. Richards, David Board, Holton Colburn, Ira Bishop, the Bannisters and Jonathan Charles. They took great pride in their choir which was called the best in town. Barnes Blanchard played the bass viol, Grover Leavens the violin, someone else played the flute, and Marion Angel the melodeon. Later players on the melodeon were Amelia Bannister, Georgia Woodworth, Ellen Lathrop and Albert Bishop. Hollister Chapin led the choir. Instrumental music was not very popular in some of the other churches at that time and their members thought that the Universalists were surely going to be lost.

The Sabbath School was held in the gallery over the pulpit. The only superintendent I remember is Galusha Leavens. His wife and Mrs. Howser were teachers. I was in Mrs. Howser's class; she was much loved as a teacher. They had a fine Sabbath School library. I do not remember ever taking out a book that was not interesting. We each had a little Testament and learned chapter after chapter and repeated them by rote. Sometimes I thought it was not very interesting and was too much work.



## The Churches

(I am indebted to Miss Gratie Colburn for the following.) On Christmas eve about the year 1850 there was an entertainment given that would hold an honorable place beside those of today. The church was trimmed with green and across the center of each window was a row of lighted candles. Invisibly suspended was a snow white dove with out-spread wings about to alight on the altar. In the distance amidst the green was the star that led the Wise Men across the plains. The heavenly-loaded branches of the Christmas tree hung low over the orchestra rail. These with music, recitations and interchange of friendly greetings made the evening one long to be remembered.

The Sewing Society was well attended. There were many men in town learning trades and working in the manufactories. Being away from home, they would hire the society to do sewing for them. The money was used to carry on the work of the church. The socials were very pleasant and large numbers attended. The association was held here occasionally. Ministers and delegates came from other towns so the meetings were interesting and profitable. The Universalists met with a good deal of opposition from the other churches and this spirit affected the children. It was well the children of the Universalists had so much confidence in their parents, else their lives would sometimes have been very sad. Other children when angry would say, "You believe everybody is going to be saved, and you'll go to the bad place and burn and burn forever." The Universalist children would go home and tell their parents who would say, "Don't worry about the forever, God will take care of that. You must watch out for the bad places here." There was not so much said about the "Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man" as now, but when times of great emergency or trouble came, they forgot all about

## The Free Methodist Church

creed and sect and arose as one man and worked in the spirit of Christ. The questions of Woman's Rights and Spiritualism came up and caused a division in the church. Services were held occasionally after this. Wm. Gowdy was the last minister. The church edifice was sold to the Free Methodists in 1873.

### THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH

H. J. W. G.

**I**N November, 1860, the Genesee Conference of the Free Methodist Church was organized by the Rev. B. T. Roberts. Five preachers were members of this conference in full connection; among them was the Rev. Wm. Manning to whom was assigned the Rushford circuit. Soon after the conference there was formed in Rushford a society consisting of the following members: Robert English, Frances English, Charles English, Levi Metcalf, Cornelia Metcalf, Elijah Metcalf, Jr., Salome Metcalf, Rachel Metcalf, George Worthington, Levanche Van Dusen, Ophelia Van Dusen, Rufus Adams, Saphronia Gordon, Wilson Gordon, Maria Benjamin, Harry Howe, Elvira Howe and Harris Gilbert. Meetings, however, had been held two years previous to the organization, under the direction of the Rev. J. W. Reddy.

Classes were soon formed at Belfast, Caneadea, Caseville, Gowanda and other places; these together with the class at Rushford formed the Rushford circuit.

The first trustees of the Rushford church were Harry Howe, Wilson Gordon, Robert English, Harris Gilbert and Levi Metcalf.

Their first meeting-house, purchased in 1861, was the old Methodist Episcopal Church, which had been moved down the street; it was the second building below the Acad-

## The Churches

emy. Here they worshipped until the building was burned in 1864; then they rented the Presbyterian Church for a time. Their present place of worship is the old Universalist Church which, after occupying several years, they purchased, repaired, and dedicated in 1873. The church has recently (1910) been undergoing extensive repairs.

### List of pastors

1860—Wm. Manning	1885—M. H. Monroe
1862-3—A. F. Curry*	1886-7—M. E. Browne*
1864—F. J. Ewell*	1888-9—T. S. Slocum
1865-6—O. O. Bacon*	1890-1-2—Noah Palmer*
1867-8—Wm. Jackson	1893-4—H. W. Rowley
1868-9—Wm. Jones*	1895-6—G. D. Mark
1870-1—I. C. White*	1897—Supplied by G. D. Mark
1872-3—T. B. Catton*	1898-9-1900—J. H. Wheeler
1874—M. H. Monroe	1901—J. E. Tiffany
1875-6—John Robinson*	1902-3-4—N. B. Martin
1877-8—A. A. Burgess	1905-6—J. H. Harmon
1879-80—A. H. Bennett	1907—C. L. Wright
1881—M. C. Burritt	1908-9-10—Charles E. Pike
1882—L. D. Perkins	
1883-4—C. C. Eggleston*	

Three Annual Conferences have been held in Rushford, the first during the pastorate of the Rev. A. H. Bennett, the second during that of the Rev. G. D. Mark, the third during that of the Rev. N. B. Martin. When the Rev. J. H. Harmon became pastor the Rushford and Rockville churches which formed one appointment, were each furnished with a preacher. Rushford is now a separate appointment. The services held each Sunday are the Sunday School, Grant C. Woods superintendent; morning preaching service; class meeting; and evening preaching service.

\*Deceased.

## Roman Catholic Church

The mid-week prayer meeting is held Thursday evening. Mrs. Cornelia Metcalf, one of the constituent members, is a regular attendant at church.

This church has always emphasized the doctrine of sanctification, and simplicity both in dress and church edifice. The singing, which is purely congregational, is led by Grant C. Woods, the human voice alone being used in praise. The present membership numbers forty-three. The church feel that the blessing of the Lord has been upon them.

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

There never has been a Catholic Church in Rushford, but for a number of years the priest from Belfast celebrated Mass at the home of John Lundrigan, on Lewellen Street.

## BEQUESTS OR REQUESTS

Arlie White Ives

### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

1885—Miss Electa Lamberson.....	\$300.00
1901—Owen Damon, Kalamazoo, Michigan..	500.00
1902—Mrs. Myra Warren Griffith.....	100.00
1906—Mrs. Mary Thompson Gordon.....	100.00
1906—Charles H. Ives, pews for the church, cost.	800.00

### FREE METHODIST CHURCH.

1900—Miss Laura Woods.....	\$120.00
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### BAPTIST CHURCH.

1897—Miss Sylvia Rice.....	\$ 50.00
1900—D. Dodge Persons.....	100.00
1910—Daniel B. Sill.....	\$1,000.00

The Churches  
*Cemeteries.*

RUSHFORD CEMETERY.

1906—Frank Wayland Higgins.....\$500.00

HARDY'S CORNERS CEMETERY.

1889—Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Richards.....\$100.00



William H. Thomas

*Courtesy of W. F. Benjamin*



## THE SCHOOLS

### HISTORY OF THE SCHOOLS

Ellen Lyman

SOME one has well said that the early settlers of a locality have a far-reaching influence on the growth and prosperity of the community; they sow the seeds of their characteristics, which are just as sure to grow and produce after their kind as the corn and potatoes they plant.

Our schools are the result of good ancestral blood, for the early settlers, nine-tenths of whom were of sturdy New England stock, though struggling in a half-cleared wilderness with debt and heavy taxes to open roads, resolved, come what might, that education should not be neglected, therefore they prepared to build schoolhouses.

The town was organized in 1816, and in 1818, they voted fifty dollars, in 1819, sixty dollars and sixty-six cents, in 1821, this is the record: "Resolved, That the town raise school money to the extent of the law"—a remarkable resolution, a forecast, the cornerstone of the Rushford Academy; this resolution, "to raise money to the extent of the law," was not a spasmodic effort, for it was repeated in 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825; and in 1830 was added the clause, "the balance now on hand of poor funds and moneys collected from strays." In 1840 and 1841 it was voted to double the amount of school money, so taxation for education kept pace with increasing population and prosperity.

School districts were formed as rapidly as there seemed to be a need and the residents of the new district could get

## The Schools

enough money to send their children even a part of the time, for in those early days tuition was paid according to the number of days each child attended. If the head of the family found it out of the question to raise the money required, the children must remain at home, no matter how much they desired to go; sometimes means could be obtained to send one or more, then they would help the younger ones in the evening.

Schools were held in the rooms of private houses until such a time as the settlers could cut and prepare logs for the building, the furnishings of which consisted of a chair for the teacher, and seats made of slabs of wood with round sticks cut from saplings for legs, for the children. On these, too high for the feet of the little ones to reach the floor, they must sit bolt upright, and woe betide the unlucky urchin that was caught turning around.

The schoolhouses in the village districts were situated, one on West Main Street, nearly opposite the residence of Mrs. Ellen Nye; the other at the foot of the hill on the road to Gordonville, nearly opposite the old home of John Robinson. A few of the early teachers were Wm. B. Alley, D. D. Persons, Monroe Washburn, Cynthia Brooks Woodworth, Aurora Thompson Green, Avery Washburn, Miranda Knickerbocker and Martha Woodworth Howser. Later teachers in the east district were Emma Claus Woods, Ira Crawford, Asa Burleson and Lucian L. Benjamin.

As early as 1849 there seemed to be a growing demand for an institution where the young men and women of the town could obtain a higher education than that furnished by the common schools, and the community as a whole seemed to think there could be no better paying investment than to establish such a school; accordingly sufficient funds were raised by subscription to erect, in 1851, the building

## History of the Schools

now used by the High School. The next spring the school was opened with the following board of trustees

B. T. Hapgood	Israel Thompson
Wm. Merrifield	James Gordon, 2nd
Washington White	Charles Benjamin
Oliver D. Benjamin	John Holmes
Titus Bartlett	Robert Norton
Isaac Stone	Samson Hardy
J. G. Osborne	William Gordon
Alonzo H. Damon	

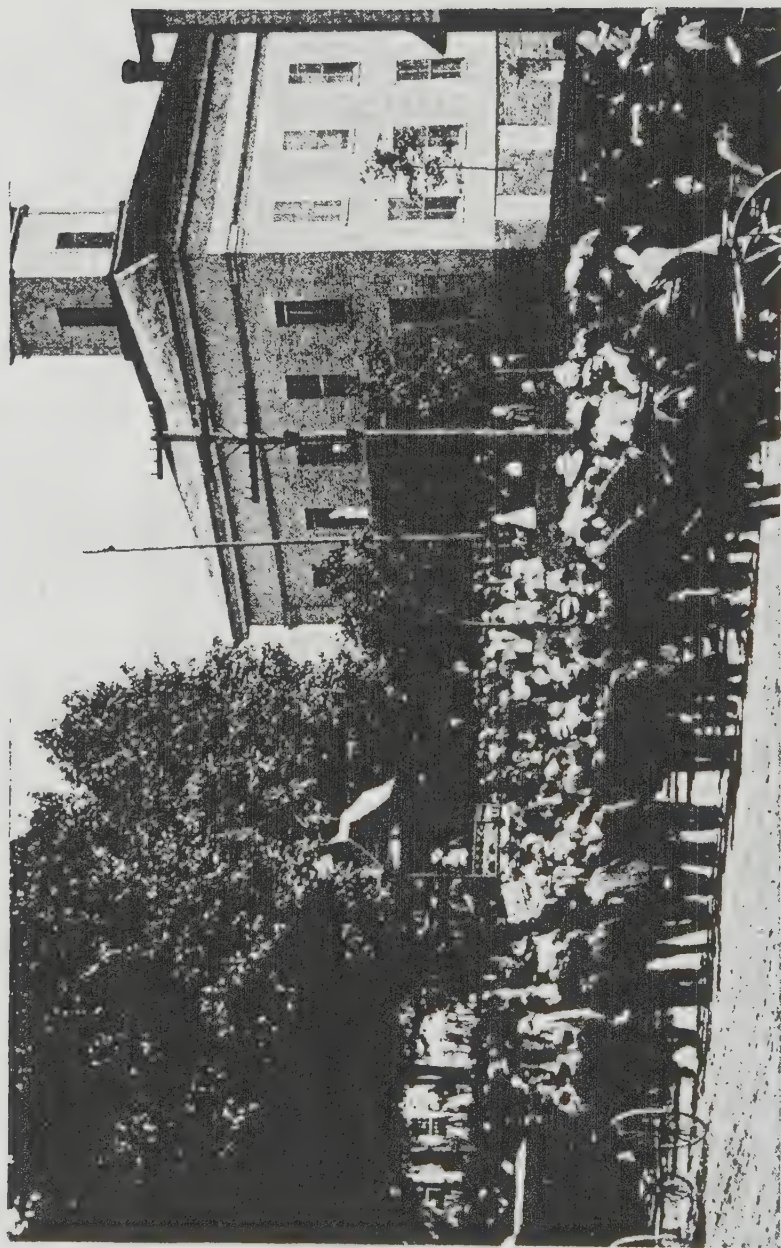
Many others were prominent in petitioning for the school, among them Isaiah Lathrop, presiding officer at the preliminary meetings, and Dr. Wm. McCall, later secretary of the board of trustees.

The first board of instruction consisted of—

Ira Sayles, A. M.....	Principal
W. W. Bean.....	Male Assistant
Miss Frances Post.....	Female Assistant
Mrs. S. C. Sayles.....	Assistant in French
Miss Aurora Bailey.....	Assistant in Music
Miss M. B. B. Sayles.....	Primary

As this was one of the first schools for higher education in this part of the State, many students came from other towns. The towns represented were Hume, Belfast, Centerville, Angelica, Farmersville, Oramel, Cuba, Pike, Scio, Freedom, Hinsdale, New Hudson, Amity, Lyndon, Franklinville, Caneadea, Granger, Portage, Orleans, Holland, Caroline, Groveland, Belvidere, and one each from Steuben, Pennsylvania, and New Market, Canada West. The total number of pupils was 303—the majority of whom were eager students, entering into their work with zeal.

Of Prof. Sayles one of his old students writes: “He



Rushford Academy



## History of the Schools

was strict and impartial, always ready to work for the best interest of the school and the town, and withal one of the most eminent geologists in Western New York." He remained five years and was succeeded by G. W. T. Buck, who was born in Reading, Vermont, but in 1835 came with his parents to Granger in this county. Prof. Buck is remembered with respect and affection. He inspired his students with the belief that he was able to answer correctly any question that might be asked; and he was one of the best of teachers in the sciences. One of his assistants was G. H. Albee, later principal of the Normal School at Oshkosh Wisconsin.

During this period the course of study for graduation was equal to that of the first two years in any college of the State. The graduates, as far as ascertained, were Sylvia Baker, M. Antoinette Kendall, Ruthem Smith, O. S. Vreeland, Eugene Hammond, Hiram M. Walker, Robert Crawford, William Crawford, Hiram A. Coats, Latham Higgins, M. C. Bissel, L. A. Stevens, H. C. Williams, H. W. Spear F. E. Woods, Ellen Lathrop and Albertine Buck. The last nine were in the class of 1860. Prof. Buck was followed by J. E. McIntyre.

In 1866 the residents of the two village districts began to be agitated over a prospect to unite and organize a Union Free School according to the law passed in 1864, as amended in 1865. Consent having been obtained from the State authorities, a call was issued for consolidation, and in answer to this, the trustees appointed the twenty-seventh day of August, 1866, as the time of meeting. A majority decided in the affirmative, and a committee of five—A. T. Cole, O. T. Stacy, C. W. Woodworth, J. G. Osborne and James Gordon, 2nd—was appointed by the chairman to select a board of education. The committee recommended



## The Schools

O. T. Higgins, O. T. Stacy, J. P. Bixby, C. J. Elmer, Stanbury Gordon and Wolcott Griffin. They were duly elected.

In 1867 Ira Sayles was again engaged as chief instructor; he remained until 1870, when he left to make a home in Virginia.

The following is a list of the principals since the organization of the Union Graded Free School:

Ira Sayles.....	1867	Edward Maguire.....	1887
A. J. Crandall.....	1870	William C. White....	1893
Dana Jenison.....	1871	H. J. Walter.....	1894
William Goodell.....	1873	Joseph Howerth.....	1896
W. W. Bean. Nov.,	1874	H. W. Harris.....	1897
Frank J. Diamond....	1876	S. K. Brecht.....	1899
M. L. Spooner.	1877	Frederick Leighton...	1901
H. J. Van Norman....	1880	W. Eugene Powell	1904
J. M. McKee.....	1882	Gray M. Moreland...	1906
W. D. Moulton.....	1885	Howard F. Brooks...	1907
W. H. Wilson.....	1885	Lester C. Sterner	1908

In 1909 the Union School became a High School. There have been one hundred and nine graduates. The class of '88 was the first and consisted of one member, Cornelia Weaver.

## SCHOOL REMINISCENCES OF V. R. GILLETTE

Ellen Lyman

**A**MONG the reminiscences given on School Day of Old Home Week were those of Dr. V. R. Gillette of Erie, Pennsylvania, a man of eighty, with the heart of a boy.

He told of his mastery of Colburn's "Mental Arithmetic" before being allowed to use slate and pencil, of his

## School Reminiscences

asking the teacher, Mr. Thomas Gordon, what he would give him to do the work in the higher book without assistance. Mr. Gordon laughed at the idea, but said "ten cents," and he went to work, without thought of the reward, to see what he could do. In those days one had to sit with his back to the rest of the school in order to use the desk, and he became so absorbed in his work that he was not aware of anything that was passing in the school-room; he earned his ten cents, and then took up algebra. His method was to keep on striving until success crowned his efforts, and not give up and fly to the teacher at the first failure.

When he was sixteen he began teaching at ten dollars a month, boarding around. He had heard that there were two boys belonging to the school who had twice succeeded in ousting the master, but he was young and believed that kindness would conquer. For several days all went well, but when sliding down hill began, these two boys would deliberately slide down once more after the call of the bell; he remonstrated with them, to no effect; this continued about a week, then he decided to try "Dr. Beech;" accordingly he cut two swamp beech whips, toughened them in the ashes and was ready for them. When they came in at noon, he told them he would now settle with them. He had taken the precaution to place within easy reach a six-foot iron poker, so they knew he meant business; they were so taken by surprise that they offered no resistance. He used up his whips, and the boys declared they would give him no farther trouble; they kept their word and all went well. This was the only time he ever had to use the rod to conquer.

His next school was in the Bannister, Ackerly and Wheeler district. Two of his former pupils, Andrew Ackerly, aged seventy-nine, and Horace Ackerly, aged seventy-

## The Schools

seven, also Parker Woodworth, aged eighty-six, who had attended school in this district, were sitting upon the rostrum. "Boys," said Dr. Gillette, "stand up;" then he said that so far as he knew there was only one other of his pupils living and that was Albert Bannister of Pasadena, California.

He told of the boarding around, of the log houses and of waking many mornings to find the bed covered with snow, but at night the good woman of the house would warm the bed with a warming-pan.

He said those were days of large schools—sometimes seventy pupils—and numberless things were required of a teacher that we never hear of now, such as making and mending quill pens and writing copies. One great advantage found in boarding around was making the acquaintance of the families. He often gained an insight into the characters of the pupils, as well as of their parents, which could have been obtained in no other way and which proved invaluable in his work as a teacher.

NOTE—Dr. Gillette prefaced his remarks School Day with  
"You'd scarce expect one of my age  
To speak in public on the stage."

## SCHOOL REMINISCENCES

W. F. Bement

I well remember the discussions pro and con in regard to the building and equipment of the old Rushford Academy, which was a most important event in the history of the town; I was there in person; I heard the plans for the enterprise previously discussed by the people of the town; I saw the frame-work of the building raised, and attended

## School Reminiscences

its first term of school. There was a goodly number of pupils from the town, and also many from adjoining towns; it was a good beginning, and as time passed on the number increased. During my attendance, changes were made in assistant teachers, but Prof. Sayles remained in full possession, and a better and more competent man it would have been difficult to find.

It is a pleasure to think over the names of those who attended during the various terms; I was not aware that I could recall so many. I give them as they occur to my memory: Copeland Gordon, Wesley Gordon, Hiram Gilbert and sister, John B. Stewart, Albert A. Abbott, Orville and Abbie Abbott, A. L. Aldrich, Emily Grimard, Helen Doland, Ellen and Stellah White, Edwin A. Bartlett, Frank, Emma and Julia Thompson, Frank and Mary McCall, Mary Allen, Ellen Osborne, Sardis Rawson, Helen and James Merryfield, America, Julia and Ellen Lathrop, Jennie Laning, Antoinette Kendall, Latham Higgins, Laura and Martha Higgins, O. T. Stacy, Mary, Ellen and Jennie Stacy, Miriam Kyes and brother, Sylvia Baker and sister, Tilden Hopkins, Michael Hanks, Grace and Katie Hoyt, Charles and Amelia Burr, Jane, Mariette and Jonas Hammond, Mr. Pierson, Helen Byrnes, Henry M. and Willard Teller, Mr. Weaver, Webster and Asa Hardy, Lois Bell, Debias and William H. Worthington, W. F. and Frank Woods, Murray Blanchard, Albert Bishop and sister, Solomon R. Seeley and sister, Ensworth McKinney, Nathan Lyman, James Spofford, Orra Morris, Delos Graves, Harriett Cummings, Clinton and H. G. Bond, C. W. and Frank Saunders, Wealthy Gleason, Joel G. Morgan, Hiram Coats, Bowen Gordon and Peter Mead; these were among those whom I knew during my terms of attendance, and I plainly see them as in the days of over fifty years ago.

## The Schools

Peter Mead, I can't forget Peter and his speech on the rostrum at the regular time of our public. He had been disturbed in his slumbers some nights previous by a horn-ing-bee, and he selected for his subject, on this occasion, "The Devil," suggested, no doubt, by an improvised machine which the crowd had with them. Peter was preparing for the ministry at the time and boarded in the family of the Baptist minister.

Our professor furnished us with lectures on astronomy, philosophy, and physiology, and we had our entertainments and sociables with an ample supply of eatables, all well attended by the public, which resulted in maintaining a friendly feeling among the students and interesting the people generally in the welfare of the school. Of the exhibitions, the one which produced the most lasting impression was "Uncle Tom's Cabin," played in the chapel by members of the school. Mr. Weaver, a student from Centerville, took the part of St. Clair, Lois Bell of Rushford was Topsy, and she did it up to the text; I have the impression that Isaac Van Ostrand of Granger did the part of Uncle Tom; he could act almost any part. The chapel was crowded to its utmost capacity, people coming from miles around. The performers entered heartily into the presentation, and although I have witnessed many star performances since then, none, in my judgment, equaled the one in the old Academy chapel.

There were many duties, some irksome, for the benefit of the students, the hardest, the one most dreaded by many and by myself especially, was public declamation. Soon after the opening of the first term, the order came to be prepared on a certain day with a selection to declaim; of course orders must be obeyed, so I made my selection and repaired to the chapel at the appointed time; who was to



## Memory Pictures

go first, no one knew; all assembled waiting for orders. Professor first gave preliminary instruction in relation to manner, position and gestures, then called upon Bowen Gordon. The question in my mind was, who next? I kept my eyes on Bowen that I might learn how to maneuver. He walked upon the stage and presented a bold front—so far, so good; I could do that; he began his oration—I do not know what he said, but very soon, he turned about and looked out of the window, which did not seem to be in accordance with preliminary instructions; but while I was looking and taking in the situation, Bowen moved quietly to his seat in the audience; then, all at once, and to my utmost consternation, my name was called—I obeyed—walked onto the stage, and when I right-faced that audience of my fellow students, it seemed as if their numbers had increased a hundred fold. I had a short speech of two verses, and whether I whispered or yelled I know not, but I stopped at the end of the first one, and exerted myself to retire in the proper manner from the platform. Bowen told me afterwards that if the window had been raised, and the distance not so far to the earth, he believed he would have jumped out. He may not approve of my telling this, but it hits him no harder than it does me, and I speak of it to show that what the pupil looks upon as a great burden may prove to be for his good, as it did for us.

## MEMORY PICTURES

Sarah Ford Crosby

**I**T goes without saying we're glad we are here;  
We'll ask time to turn backward for forty odd years  
And paint us some pictures that will drive away tears.  
What object is that, on the street, that we see?

## The Schools

It's coming this way! Is it an animated tepee?  
You must be a stranger---its Miss Ford and her cloak  
That the ladies presented, out to walk with her flock.  
As many as can, have a hand on the border,  
And a score or less primaries are all under cover.  
There's one holds her hand that has marvelous eyes;  
For Frank, the years held the State's highest prize.  
There sits Professor McIntyre---seen dimly perhaps,  
For he had the fever and then a relapse.  
Miss Campbell came later, when the preachers grew tired,  
To help with the Latin and what else was required.  
And when the fever laid Professor aside,  
And between those two rooms I, myself, did divide,  
With the help of the pastors, we carried them through  
And marked them all perfect.—Didn't they whisper? A few.  
Do you think that those boys and those girls in their teens  
Found nothing to study, but on program was seen?  
They were as wise as the birds in the trees,  
“And became of each other, devout devotees.”  
And though I talked long and explained without measure,  
Some failed to appropriate “cube root” as their treasure.  
Hattie Stebbins\* and Norton still laugh at the way  
They let Cupid trick them in that far-away day.  
Was I proud of my classes? Proud of them? Quite.  
Especially German, with Mary Lathrop and Viola White.†  
Professor Sayles and wife came, as they said they would  
come,  
And took up the work, years before they'd begun.  
Misses Lyman and Freeman—always nice and trim,

\*Hattie Stebbins (Mrs. Henry Norton of Hinsdale, N. Y.), daughter of H. K. Stebbins.

†Viola White (Mrs. Harlan P. Hopkins of Bradford, Illinois), daughter of Washington White.

## Memory Pictures

Miss Thompson's skilled fingers to music the hymn,  
By their side is your servant—but she's not aware  
That she's hastened to school without her back hair.  
Straight oversight, for the waterfalls we once wore  
Much resembled the pack Bunyan's Pilgrim once bore.  
"This shrivelled old woman—shrunk away in her wear"  
Was more than forty years younger when she sat in that  
chair,

And who will now say, she was never that fair?  
The faculty is competent—that picture complete.  
We'll now strike the bell and fill every seat.  
Here are the boys and the girls we all know,  
A hundred are seated there, row after row.  
Adams and Ackerly was the way they began,  
And all your best names down the alphabet ran.  
I'd tell all their names if you'd give me time,  
But I've less than five minutes to jingle this rhyme.  
How did we manage them? We had but one rule,  
They managed themselves, for love ruled the school.  
All decorous and studious,—submitting to spell  
Though they knew every word, as Sarah Mason can tell.  
And after ten years had in history occurred  
They wrote me some letters, never missing a word.  
The conspicuous absence of gum-chewing today  
Is the result of that gum-class that's so far away  
And the exhibitions, at closing, were a flourish so grand,  
No wonder our pupils are the pride of the land.  
There's the doctor and lawyer and merchant and priest  
And farmer and orator and gubernatorial chief.  
Let Rushford recount all her products—the completest  
Will be boys and girls, then, now, and forever, the sweetest.  
Tell all of her goodies—even her maple molasses  
Can never compare with her lads and her lassies.

## The Schools

And of all the dear, old pictures that hang on memory's  
wall,  
Rushford and Rushford Academy are among the dearest of  
them all.

## SONG

THE following lines were written by Miss E. L. Stone,  
the first teacher in the intermediate department after  
the organization of the Rushford Union Graded Free School.  
The lines were vigorously sung by the pupils of the depart-  
ment:

We're a band of merry schoolmates,  
And we love to go to school.  
Education is our motto!  
And our names to you we'll sing:

Willie Leavens, Freddie Stebbins,<sup>1</sup>  
With his little brother Charlie,  
Merlie Sayles<sup>2</sup> and Charlie Chadwick,<sup>3</sup>  
With our studious Eddie Rice,<sup>4</sup>

Nellie Bell and Mary Brua,<sup>5</sup>  
Mary Butts<sup>6</sup> and Blanchie Bixby,<sup>7</sup>  
Clara George and Ella Eaton,<sup>8</sup>  
With our blue-eyed Jennie Woods,

<sup>1</sup> Son of H. K. Stebbins.

<sup>2</sup> Son of Professor Ira Sayles.

<sup>3</sup> Son of Arlington Chadwick.

<sup>4</sup> Son of the Rev. M. H. Rice.

<sup>5</sup> Mrs. Frank J. Diamond, of New Haven, Conn., daughter of  
Mrs. Lucretia Morse.

<sup>6</sup> Mrs. W. W. Kimball, of Binghamton, daughter of Mrs. Lucy  
Butts.

<sup>7</sup> Mrs. Seward Mulliken.

<sup>8</sup> Mrs. Julian Robinson, of Belmont, daughter of Aaron Eaton.

## Song

Emma Cole,<sup>9</sup> her brother Elbert,  
Frank Beaumont<sup>10</sup> and Freddie Gordon,  
Chester Hyde and Ralphie Laning,  
With our singing Gracie Rood,<sup>11</sup>

Then comes Albert and Wilbur Freeman  
With our laughing Frankie Higgins,  
Mary Cole,<sup>12</sup> Viroqua Aiken,<sup>13</sup>  
And our merry Libbie too,<sup>14</sup>

Helen White, her sister Ida,<sup>15</sup>  
With two cousins, May<sup>16</sup> and Jessie<sup>17</sup>  
Alice Barras,<sup>18</sup> Bennie Baldwin,<sup>19</sup>  
With our sprightly Truman Wier<sup>20</sup>

Also black-eyed Ida Bresler,<sup>21</sup>  
With two brothers, Frank and Freddie,  
Charlie White<sup>22</sup> and Robert Hancock,<sup>23</sup>  
With our roguish Charlie Mack.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Daughter of the Rev. A. T. Cole.

<sup>10</sup> Son of John Beaumont.

<sup>11</sup> Mrs. Grace Volmer, of Salt Lake City, Utah, daughter of L. A. Rood, a merchant.

<sup>12</sup> Mrs. A. Scouten, of Denver, Col., daughter of Mrs. Aldula Cole.

<sup>13</sup> Mrs. Martin Clark, daughter of Mrs. Henry Elmer.

<sup>14</sup> Libbie Southard (called Libbie Higgins), Mrs. John Kissenger, of Cuba.

<sup>15</sup> Mrs. D. W. Woods, daughter of H. K. White.

<sup>16</sup> Mrs. C. C. Colburn, daughter of Washington White.

<sup>17</sup> Mrs. L. M. Blanchard, of Bliss, Wyoming County, daughter of Quincy White.

<sup>18</sup> Mrs. B. D. Kyes, daughter of C. H. Barras.

<sup>19</sup> Son of Benjamin Baldwin.

<sup>20</sup> Son of Alfred Wier.

<sup>21</sup> Mrs. Chamberlain, daughter of George Bresler.

<sup>22</sup> Son of Luther K. White.

<sup>23</sup> Son of John Hancock, of Centerville.

<sup>24</sup> Son of Charles McMullen.



## The Schools

Rosy Nellie, Charlie's sister,  
Who sometimes forgets and whispers,  
Ruthie Hall <sup>25</sup> and Ida Morrow  
And our honest Frankie Woods,

Nelia Lewis,<sup>26</sup> sister Nettie,<sup>27</sup>  
Addie Rice and Charlie Pelton,<sup>28</sup>  
All have plucked the tree of knowledge  
And eat its golden fruit.

## THE FIRST PHILOMATHEAN SOCIETY

W. F. Bement

NOT long after the opening of the Rushford Academy the young men began to think of organizing a literary society. It was of slow growth, but one was started, and existed under different forms and names until finally the name Philomathean was adopted.

The room in the third story of the southeast corner of the building, was obtained of the trustees for the use of the society. Within and with closed doors, the constitution was formed and after much discussion upon the different clauses therein contained, adopted and signed by the members who were active in promoting it. Charles W. Saunders was the first president, and Joel G. Morgan the first secretary of the society.

A fund was raised to furnish the room with carpet, chairs, settees, tables, lamps and chandeliers.

Regular meetings were held once a week, and public dis-

<sup>25</sup> Mrs. Southworth, daughter of Orsavilla Hall.

<sup>26</sup> Mrs. Charles Tuller, daughter of Samuel Lewis.

<sup>27</sup> Mrs. Alex Conway.

<sup>28</sup> Son of George Pelton.

## First Philomathean Society

ussions were held in the chapel at appointed times, two members who chose their own subject and had two weeks for preparation, being chosen to represent the society. The society also maintained a course of lectures, which were open to the public, given by such men as Horace Mann, Dr. E. H. Chapin, Henry Ward Beecher, Horace Greeley, Frederick Douglas, and Josh Billings. These speakers required large pay, but they drew so large audiences that expenses were paid and a surplus left in the treasury, by which the society was enabled to maintain itself on a respectable footing.

The "fifties" were years of political unrest both in Europe and America, and the questions which agitated these continents were discussed within the hall of the Philomatheans; but none so completely engrossed their time and attention as the attempt to extend the system of slavery. They not only demonstrated that they were "lovers of learning" but lovers of liberty as well, and many of them in the Civil War that followed gave their time, blood and lives in defence of their principles. John B. Stewart, during the Kansas trouble, went from the school to that territory and was killed by Quantrell and his gang of border ruffians. When the news reached home, a meeting was held by the society, and throughout the town indignation was freely expressed at such lawlessness.

During the principalship of G. W. F. Buck, the organization was in a flourishing condition. At length it adjourned *sine die*; but it was revived in 1874, during the principalship of W. W. Bean.

# The Schools

## THE MYSTIC ASSOCIATION OF RUSHFORD ACADEMY

E. L. and H. J. W. G.

SINCE the opening of the Rushford Academy, there had been a literary society for young men but none for young women until the winter of 1858-9, when such a society was organized, the object of which was "the improvement in taste, eloquence, reading, literature and social improvement." The membership was never numerous, but was select and congenial. In the list of members there are a few names of persons outside the school, among which is that of Mrs. Cynthia Woodworth whom the members styled the "arbiter elegantum." Among the honorary members were Grace Greenwood (Mrs. Lippincott), Fanny Fern (Mrs. Parton), Mrs. L. H. Sigourney and Cora L. V. Hatch, now Mrs. Richmond. Other members, though not all at the same time, were Antoinette Kendall, Emily and Lydia Bridgeman from Belfast, Mrs. Howser, Amelia Burr from Farmersville, Ellen Stacy, Eleanor Sessions, America and Ellen Lathrop, Albie Buck from Granger, Ann Ellithorpe, Amelia Brooks, Olivia Chamberlain, Arcelia Benjamin, Abigail Sears from Oramel, Ellen Green, Sarah C. Tufts, Lizzie Leavens, Mary J. Day from Lyndon, Louise McKinney, Addie Dunn from Black Creek, Sophia Gilbert, Delocia Gilley, Julia Thompson, Helen Doland, Caroline Blanchard from Centerville, Mary Williams, Flora Hammond, Janette Hill, Sarah Rockwell, Julia Ely and Viola White.

There were a few public sessions, but publicity was not much desired, more quiet means of culture being in keeping with the character of most of the members. In the words of their constitution, "They were to hold a public debate whenever 'the public spirit moved them.'" In March, 1859,

## The Mystic Association

a joint public session was held by the Mystic and Philomatheans which was reported in full in the *Rushford Weekly News Letter* and the following comment made: "It was such an entertainment as Prof. Buck may be proud to have repeated." The following is the program of another public session:

Program  
Public Session  
of the  
Mystic and Philomathean Societies  
at  
Rushford Academy  
Wednesday Evening, Nov. 21, 1860  
"United we stand"  
Order of Exercises.

Music

Calling Roll.....Responding by Sentiments  
Salutatory.....R. Crawford  
Home and Foreign Correspondence

Music

Discussion—Resolved, That personal necessity is the greatest incentive to literary exertion. Affirmative, Miss C. Tufts. Negative, L. Higgins.

Recital.....Mrs. A. Howser  
Scraps from the Rag Bag

Music

Biographer.....Wm. Crawford  
Poem.....Miss A. Lathrop  
Oration.....H. Williams

Music

Dramatic Charade  
Dramatis Personae

Miss Colton.....Miss E. Sessions

## The Schools

Pattie.....Miss A Ellithrope  
Mr. Mansfield.....G. Banfield  
Mr. Mansfield, Jr.....E. Beecher

### Music

Tableaux Vivants.....Twelve Views  
Valedictory.....Mrs. C. Woodworth

### Music

### Adjournment

The following is a report of the secretary, Mrs. Cynthia Woodworth, dated March 1, 1861: "The Society met pursuant to adjournment, at the usual place, that is to say, in a commodious but ill-furnished room on the third floor of the Rushford Academy and at any hour that suited the convenience of individual members, limited only by the closing of said session.

"House called to order by vice president. Roll called and nearly half of the members responded by sentiment. Report of the preceding meeting, called for by the president pro tem and read by the secretary, no doubt met with entire disapproval as nothing was said in regard to its adoption. After some half minute of profound and impressive silence, Miss Day read a thrilling page from Cushing's Manual, Miss Bissell followed, reading a beautiful selection entitled "Autumn Memories." Miss Williams then favored the house with a few very appropriate excuses for neglecting to write an essay. Next in order came the discussion which was very animated and direct to the point, although interrupted by the entrance of some of the learned gender. The question, 'Resolved, that this Society ought to be maintained,' was decided by the house in the affirmative by the overwhelming majority of one, and our noble Mystic band so suddenly and so fiercely threatened with inestine war, again



## Second Philomathean Society

unfurls the banner of peace on earth and good-will to women, and all now hug the dear hope that future generations will point to the memorable decision of this house on the first day of March, 1861, as the one great event that establishes her name and fame in all coming time. The pulse of the Society again beating quietly and regularly, the rehearsal was called for, but the appointee, Miss Lathrop, declaring that she knew nothing, not even Hohenlinden, was not urged to 'say something.' The biographer, Miss Ellithorpe, plead guilty, but, in place of what should have been, read an article from a newspaper; since the secretary of this society failed at the time to fully comprehend the subject matter and, moreover, having neglected the making of this report till the moment it was needed, she must be excused from reporting fully under this head, but trusting to the known intelligence and good judgment of the lady in question, we venture to pronounce it good."

The remainder of the report consisted of reports of committees and appointments.

"March 20, 1863, a meeting was called in Prof. Buck's recitation room for the purpose of re-establishing the weekly sessions of the Mystic Association which for reasons growing out of the political and social conditions of society had been suspended the last eighteen months."

The Association probably disbanded at the close of the school year of 1862-63.

## THE SECOND PHILOMATHEAN SOCIETY

H. J. W. G.

SOMETIME during the principalship of Prof. Bean the boys in the Academic Department wished to form a society for the cultivation of their mental powers in a line not afforded by the regular school work, so they asked the

## The Schools

school board the privilege of holding meetings in the old Lyceum room. The board fearing that the exercises might not be confined to debating and kindred matters were somewhat reluctant in granting the request, but finally decided to allow the boys the use of the room under the condition that the members of the faculty be allowed to visit the society whenever they wished. This condition was accepted, but it is not recalled that any but the principal ever honored them with a visit.

At a certain session of the society the debate was upon the temperance question. The chief upon one side was Frank Babbitt, upon the other Rollin Houghton, who was an adept at asking questions. Prof. Bean, who was present, was a strong supporter of the temperance cause and seemingly favored Mr. Houghton's side. He reproved Mr. Babbitt for not answering Mr. Houghton's questions, saying all questions could be answered by yes or no. During his talk he used a stock expression of his "I would stake my honor upon it." Mr. Babbitt felt the ground slipping from beneath his feet, but he rose to the occasion, saying, "Several times this evening our Professor has said that he would stake his honor upon it. Now I would like to know what the honor of a gambling professor is worth anyway?" Prof. Bean commenced to look queer. Turning to him Mr. Babbitt said, "Can all questions be answered by yes or no?" The professor bowed his head. "Then," said Mr. Babbitt, "when did you last beat your wife?" Prof. Bean blushed, smiled and said nothing, and Mr. Babbitt snatched victory out of defeat. But he didn't wait that night to walk down the street with Prof. Bean, and the next morning it wasn't convenient for him to go to chapel, he had business in David Sill's jewelry store across the way until all were well upstairs, then he slid into the school room. But

## Second Philomathean Society

Prof. Bean never mentioned the subject to him until years after when he met him on a Pennsylvania railroad train.

One evening when the society was in session, Frank W. Higgins, who was in town, was invited to attend and take part in the debate. R. B. Laning was present with a pile of books from which he frequently read to make more convincing his arguments. When Mr. Higgins was called upon, he rose, saying that he had not prepared himself for the debate, that he hadn't consulted any libraries or brought any with him.

Sometime during the organization of the Philomathean the Lodge of Good Templars disbanded and offered for sale their curtains and other stage belongings. At one of the regular meetings of the Philomathean, one of the members proposed that the society purchase these effects since they were going to give a public entertainment and these things could be bought cheap. They would also be helping the Good Templars by so doing.

The proposal did not meet with a very hearty response. Mr. Babbitt, rising, said: "Mr. President, I understand that the gentleman wishes to purchase these things to help the Good Templars, at the same time we are to fleece them all we can."

At one meeting of the society there was a unanimous opinion of those present concerning some subject under discussion. Mr. Laning then appeared and not being in accord with the prevailing sentiment, by persuasion soon changed the complexion of the meeting. The feelings of those whose complexion did not change need not be described.

That much benefit was derived from this organization of the boys is undoubted. Mistakes in the conduct of the primaries in the town, sometimes causing much trouble,

## The Schools

have not been made by those who were once Philomatheans. The members as recalled were Ralph B. Laning, William H. Benson, Frank Babbitt, Rollin Houghton, Eddy C. Gilbert, Thomas James., Alex Conway, S. E. Talcott, Alfred Green, William Worden, William B. Kivilen, De Forest Aiken, Lucian E. Hardy, Frank Beaumont and O. Leslie Elliott.

### THE POLYHYMNIAN SOCIETY

H. J. W. G.

THE society was organized during the principalship of Marvin L. Spooner. One afternoon a paper was circulated among the pupils of the Academic Department for any to sign who would like to join a society for the purpose of studying literature, since there was no opportunity for such study during school hours. At a preliminary meeting held October 3, 1878, the following persons were present: Prof. Spooner, H. C. Elmer, O. L. Elliott, D. Callahan, H. R. Charles, F. E. White, C. Crowell, H. E. Tarbell, G. D. Ryder, E. C. Gilbert, Helen J. White, Jennie Laning, Kate Lundrigan, Nellie Persons, Esther Wilmot, Myrtie Nye, Vernie Gordon and Ella Farwell. All of these except D. Callahan became members. The officers elected were:

President.....	E. C. Gilbert
Vice President.....	Helen J. White
Secretary.....	O. L. Elliott
Treasurer.....	Jennie Laning
Corresponding Secretary.....	H. C. Elmer

Three committees were appointed:

1. To frame constitution and by-laws, H. C. Elmer, O. L. Elliott and Vernie Gordon.
2. To select reading matter, Prof. Spooner, Helen White and H. R. Charles.

## The Polyhymnian Society

3. For miscellaneous exercises, F. E. White and Myrtie Nye.

At the first regular session after a "long and earnest debate" it was decided that the society should meet every Wednesday evening at seven o'clock unless otherwise ordered. Elections occurred every few weeks. The vice president always took charge of the lesson, which occupied an hour. A critic was appointed for each session who gave his report at the close, sometimes seriously and sometimes humorously. One of Shakespeare's plays was read two evenings in succession, the third evening was devoted to a poem selected from some other author. Among the plays and poems studied were "Julius Caesar," "Hamlet," "Romeo and Juliet," "Merchant of Venice," "King Henry the Eighth," "The Winter's Tale," "Snowbound," "Cotter's Saturday Night," "The Deserted Village," "The Cry of the Human," "Hager in the Wilderness," "The Holy Grail," "Locksley Hall," "Lady of the Lake," and "The Princess."

A favorite in miscellaneous exercises was a five-minute extemporaneous speech by one of the boys. The speaker took the floor, the president announced the subject, then there was vacancy of mind and frantic endeavors to say something, while before the speaker sat a smiling audience. Finally the president would say, "The time is up," and the victim would eagerly take his seat. F. E. White was given the subject "Forefathers" and Prof. Spooner "Among the Stars." In a spelling exercise, sides were chosen. Prof. Spooner's side won, then E. C. Gilbert spelled the society down. In a parsing exercise H. C. Elmer's side was victorious. There were discussions, as "Resolved, that the printing press is more beneficial to man than steam." Affirmative, F. E. White and C. H. Crowell. Negative, E. C. Gilbert and H. C. Elmer. It was decided in favor of the



## The Schools

negative. The society was entertained by music each evening. Perhaps it would be a solo, "Under the Daisies," by Phinnie Bliven, or a quartette, "John Brown" (with variations), by Nellie Persons and Phinnie Bliven, Leslie Elliott and Obed Wilmot, when listeners were in high glee and singers not far from it, or the whole society would sing "Daniel in the Lion's Den," or Prof. Spooner would perform upon the organ producing instrumental music which was instrumental. "This is instrumental." (Applause.) Hattie Stacy, Katie Hardy, May Lundrigan, Lizzie Kyes and Flora Metcalf were frequent organists. Select readings by the girls were without number and recitations were numerous.

January, 1879, a committee consisting of F. E. White, H. C. Elmer and O. L. Elliott was appointed to wait upon the school board for the purpose of gaining permission to change the room occupied by the society for a more desirable one. The committee having received a favorable answer the society moved from the old Lyceum room in the southeast corner of the third story to a room in the southwest part of the first story. February 12, 1879, on motion of O. L. Elliott the constitution was amended to include the appointment of a janitor. Mr. Elliott had the honor of being the first janitor.

H. C. Elmer from the committee on miscellaneous exercises reported a murder trial which after being amended was accepted as follows:

Lawyers for the People: Prof. Spooner, O. L. Elliott.

Lawyers for the Prisoner: E. C. Gilbert, F. E. White.  
Sheriff.....H. E. Tarbell  
Nurse.....Phinnie Bliven  
Prisoner.....C. H. Crowell  
Mother-in-law.....Jennie Laning  
Judge.....H. C. Elmer

## The Polyhymnian Society

Clerk.....H. R. Charles  
Physician.....G. D. Ryder  
Second Wife.....Nellie Persons

Witnesses for people: Jennie Laning, G. D. Ryder, Mary Brua, Hattie Stacy, Katie Hardy, Phinnie Bliven.

Witnesses for prisoner: C. H. Crowell, Myrtie Nye, Ella Farwell, Viola Crowell, Nellie Persons, Vernie Gordon.

Deceased died January, 1878. Second marriage, July 4, 1878.

This trial of C. H. Crowell for the alleged murder of his wife was opened by Prof. Spooner, the District Attorney, and continued four sessions. E. C. Gilbert summed up for the defense, reviewing the testimony and showing the incompetency of Dr. Ryder. O. L. Elliott closed the case for the people, endeavoring to show, first, the impossibility of Dr. Ryder administering arsenic, and second, the probability that Mr. Crowell did. Judge Elmer charged the jury in an able manner. After the jury had been out about twenty minutes they brought in the verdict "Not Guilty." The trial aroused much interest in the town.

In October, 1879, the heavy volumes of Shakespeare with fine print were discarded and it was decided to use Rolfe's edition of Shakespeare, each play bound separately, instead.

Among other things for entertainment was a charade. Vernie Gordon came in sewing, followed by Myrtie Nye sighing. O. L. Elliott marched in with a teapot and commenced steeping his exhilarating beverage. Helen White guessed the word which was So-cie-ty. Hon. O. T. Wilmot was introduced and favored the society with an oration which was very fine. Affording much amusement to those present was a tableaux, "Married Life," by Phinnie Bliven

## The Schools

and E. C. Gilbert. Scene 1, Just Married. Scene 2, Married a Year. One night in November, 1879, the members remained after the session, upon invitation by one of the girls, to "a candy pull" which was a "sweet and sticky" affair.

"O childhood's joys are very great  
Swinging on somebody's gate,  
Eating candy till his mouth  
Is all stuck up from north to south."

One of the young men who wore a Prince Albert that evening was told by his mother the next morning that he had better go and sit in the creek. An open session was given by the society in the Academy Hall December 19, 1879, the leading feature of which was a Breach of Promise Suit—Miss Nettie Adams *vs.* Homer E. Tarbell. This trial although funny did not awaken so much interest as the former one. What are wounded affections by the side of poisoning a wife? Other general exercises given from time to time show what life and spice there was in the Poly hymnian.

Silent Song—Mr. Gilbert at the organ.

Chase Reading—Misses Persons, Bliven and Gordon.

Calisthenic Exercises.

Original Poetry by each member.

Riddles.

Query Box.

A discourse in which F. E. White took the society to the planet Mars with his dog.

A Game, Verbarium, conducted by Anna Kendall.

Autobiography—Prof. Spooner.

Select Reading, "Bonnie Leslie"—Myrtie Nye.

Reading, "Story of Deacon Brown"—Frona Gilbert.

Poem, "Old Maids in Council"—F. E. White.

## Present Philomathean Society

Poem, "Old Bachelors in Council"—Rose Olthof.

Selections from Mother Goose—The Society.

Paper, "Items of Interest"—Flora Lyon (it proved interesting).

Auctions were held occasionally to sell copies of Shakespeare's plays. They were not marked by solemnity. December 24, 1880, a public entertainment was given, followed by a Christmas tree. This was during the principalship of H. J. Van Norman. March 23, 1881, the following decision was made by the president, May Lundrigan: "Members must not nominate themselves." An appeal was made but the house sustained the decision. January 31, 1883, the society was edified by an excellent essay upon Victor Hugo by Louis B. Lane. The last session was held May 1, 1883.

There were those who said that the Polyhymnian was a place for the "hims to go home with the Pollys." Perhaps it was true, but a taste for good reading was inculcated and the poems read and discussed at the Polyhymnian seem a little nearer than any others.

"O didn't we have a jolly time?"

Good-by dear old Polyhymnian.

## THE PRESENT PHILOMATHEAN SOCIETY

E. L. and H. J. W. G.

SOON after Frederick Leighton became principal of the Rushford High School, in 1901, the subject of forming a literary society was agitated among the students, and the outcome was a meeting in the room of the principal and the election of the following officers:

## The Schools

President.....	Ethel King
Vice President.....	Ethel Tait
Secretary.....	Allan H. Gilbert
Treasurer.....	Katherine Baldwin
Teller.....	Earl Kingsbury

Philomathean was the name chosen for the society

The first meeting was held in October; there were present forty-two active members and five associate members; the program consisted of music, recitations and readings, followed by a debate on the question: "Resolved, That women should have political equality with man." It was decided in the affirmative.

Under the auspices of the society, a series of entertainments was furnished which was liberally patronized, and in connection with the school, a paper called *The Banner* was published every month. It contained happenings, original poems, essays, communications from former pupils and friends of the school, and spicy editorials; but its life was brief, because of added work for the pupils and insufficient financial backing. The subscribers missed its cheery presence.

When Kate Proctor was president of the society, a special session was called, to meet immediately after school. After the meeting had been called to order, Earl Kingsbury inadvertently made some remark. The president informed him that he had not been recognized, whereupon Earl turned round in his seat and, addressing the society, said, "Don't you know me?"

While Allan Gilbert was president, Justin Macklin's name was on the program for an extemporaneous speech, the subject to be given by the president after the speaker had taken the floor. Justin took his stand with both hands down



## Alumni Poem<sup>ed</sup>

deep in his pockets. He was given the subject, "The Use of Pockets."

The society is still a prominent feature of the school. There is a good attendance and much enthusiasm. Good music is one of its leading features. The present officers (1909-10) are:

President.....	Ward James
Vice President.....	Ethel McCall
Secretary.....	Blanche Lane
Treasurer.....	Millard Smith

## ALUMNI POEM

(A Poetic Hash.)

Lucy Marsh Poate.

This is the night on which our dreams  
Flit backward thro' the misty years.  
Forgot our present hopes and fears,  
The vanished past the present seems.

The same hall echoes to our tread,  
The old familiar faces smile,  
Dear friendships are revived a while  
And gaily the old greetings said.

Fellow alumni, you recall  
This night your own commencement day.  
Picture once more as best you may  
Yourself within this dear old hall;

You sat upon this selfsame stage,  
You felt yourself admired of all,

## The Schools

You heard the plaudits in the hall  
And rose to read your essay sage.

It was an effort trite and true  
And writ on some time honored theme.  
Of paper it required a ream,  
And it was tied with ribbon blue.

It settled the affairs of state  
Or censured fashion's foolish laws.  
You dealt in proverbs and wise saws  
Or dabbled with the hand of fate.

Your subjects deep were scorned by some,  
Unlettered these, an untaught few,  
For our alumni, since they knew  
Their own past follies, would be dumb.

Ah, there upon the stage that night  
What hopes you had for future days,  
With what high hearts upon life's ways  
Would you life's hardest battle fight.

For one he would a lawyer be,  
And one would in the pulpit stand,  
And some to be physicians planned,  
And some old maids—like me, you see.

(Kate P. Proctor.)

A lawyer grave would be our Kate,  
An engineering stunt she'd do,  
With dabs of art, and Latin too,  
But she's turned schoolma'm, such is fate.

## Alumni Poem

(C. Hanford Kendall.)

One lad he would a trapper be,  
For Christmas gifts he sold the hide;  
But at the Christmas tree he sighed,  
The girls all gave him traps, you see.

But blush not though your dreams be far,  
Within your hearts we cannot see  
We know not what you hoped to be,  
We only see you as you are.

Five score and more there are of you,  
Of some we fain would further speak,  
These from among you let us seek,  
An honored and a favored few.

(Cora Beaumont.)

And there is one for whom we know  
A pride too deep to be expressed,  
Chosen among our ranks the best,  
Across the broad Atlantic go.

Your honor we must feel as ours.  
Our Alma Mater's daughter you,  
A daughter earnest, gracious, true,  
Redeeming fully all your powers.

And there are some who from our school  
With scholarships to college went.  
To Syracuse, Cornell we sent,  
And they proved wonders as a rule.

## The Schools

(Allan H. Gilbert.)

For one, the country with his costumes rung;  
Broken the promise of his youth,  
For then he ran but now, forsooth,  
He rides the country roads among.

(Herbert S. Babbitt.)

One laddie sails the ocean blue.  
Brave Herbert is a midshipmite.  
Strange tidings he doth homeward write,  
O Temperance Union, be they true?

(Mrs. Myrtie Metcalf Bush.)

For one, our next year's president,  
A matronly and gracious dame,  
Will surely win undying fame  
On parliamentary learning bent.

(Mrs. Ruth Mason Watson.)

Wits would our Rushford pace deride,  
But courage, we are not so slow,  
We have our weddings too, you know.  
All honor to Old Home Week's bride.

(J. Edward Lundrigan.)

This lawyer in a western town  
In boyhood loved the dance so gay,  
The waltz and two-step, so they say,  
But now he talks the wisest down.

(Abram P. Benjamin.)

And one, that golden-headed youth,  
A gallant swain in days of yore,  
But married now he flirts no more.  
A printer's devil he, forsooth.

## College Graduates, Etc.

(Earl D. Kilmer.)

A cat has nine lives, so they say,  
Seven operations on one's pet,  
And seven from nine leaves two lives yet.  
The doctor's cat lives to this day.

Fellow alumni, I am through.  
My muse is halting at the best,  
At more of her you would protest,  
So let me bid you each adieu.

Dear school, I cannot say good-by.  
Could I forget those pleasant ways  
Through which I walked in school girl days  
Then could I part without a sigh.

O Alma Mater, tender true,  
We have no need to say Farewell  
For always in our hearts you dwell  
An ever present memory you.

## COLLEGE GRADUATES, ETC.

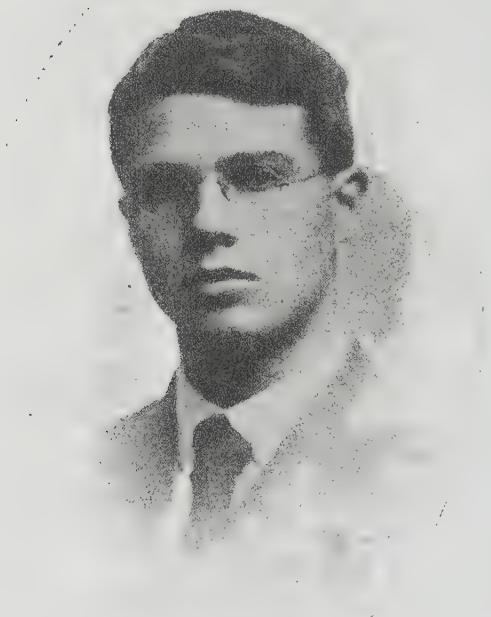
F. E. Woods, A. B., 1866; A. M., 1868, Genesee College (now Syracuse University).

H. C. Elmer, A. B., 1883, Cornell University; Ph. D., 1888, Johns Hopkins University; Europe, 1885-1886. Member of faculty of Cornell University since 1888.

O. L. Elliott, Ph. B., 1885; Ph. D., 1890, Cornell University. Instructor in English, Cornell University, 1886-1891; Registrar of Leland Stanford, Jr., University since 1891.



## The Schools



Allan H. Gilbert

C. Hanford Kendall, C. E., 1895, Cornell University; M. S., 1896, University of Minnesota; Scholar and Instructor in Civil Engineering 1895-1897, University of Minnesota.

R. Talcott Brooks, B. Arch., 1900, Cornell University.

Frederick W. Poate, M. E., 1905, Cornell University.

Ruth H. Mason Watson, A. B., 1905, Alfred University.

Ernest M. Poate, M. D., 1906, Cornell University.

Allan H. Gilbert, A. B., 1909, Cornell University; A. M., 1910, Yale University; Fellow in English, 1910-11, Cornell University.

J. Edward Lundrigan, Albany Law School, 1901.

Frank James, LL. B. 1904, University of Buffalo.

## Artists

Clyde Wheeler, LL. B., 1906, Syracuse University.

M. Raymond Atwell, LL. B., 1900, Syracuse University.

Frank Himes, University of Rochester, 1898, Theology

Arthur L. Warren, Crozer, Pennsylvania, 1901, Theology.

Edward L. James, University of Rochester, 1905, Theology.

William W. Bush, D. D. S., 1903, University of Buffalo.

Clarence H. Thomas, D. D. S., 1903, University of Buffalo.

George Benjamin, D. V. M., 1905, Toronto Veterinary College; Graduate Course, 1907, Chicago.

Herbert S. Babbitt, United States Naval Academy, 1906.

Myrtie Emily Nye, Industrial Art School, Philadelphia, 1893.

May Gordon Wilmot, Normal and Fine Arts Course Mechanics Institute, Rochester, 1897.

Lena Warren, Ithaca Conservatory of Music, 1902.

## ARTISTS

**A**MONG the artists may be mentioned Mrs. Mary Thompson Gordon and Mrs. Helen Doland Judd, whose paintings in oil beautify homes in Rushford. Miss Julia Thompson has hanging on her walls an exquisite tapestry painting done by her sister, Mrs. Gordon, and Mrs. Judd paints, in water colors, roses so true to nature that they seem to lack only the fragrance.

## VI PHYSICIANS

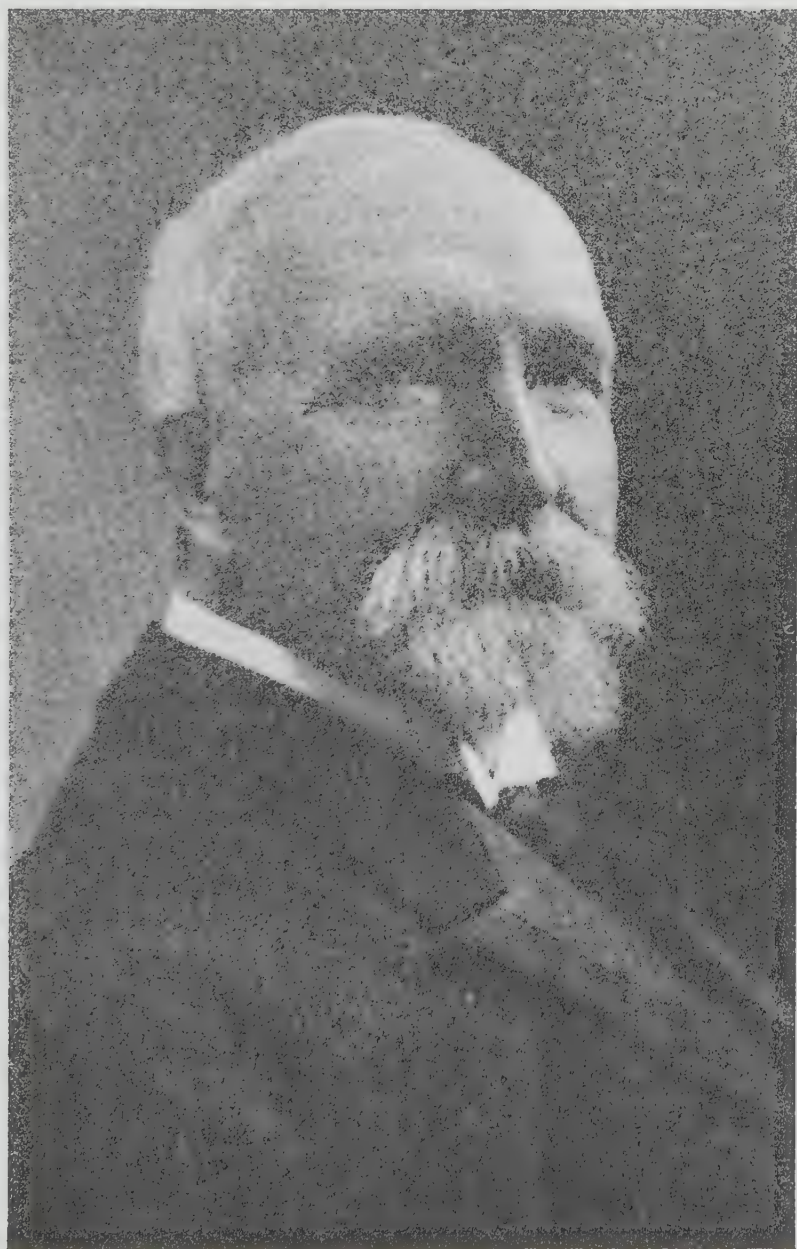
### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

H. J. W. G.

**E** BENEZER HYDE, who settled in Belvidere in 1804, was the first practising physician in Allegany County. His practice extended as far north as Wyoming County.

Dyer Story, the youngest son of Captain Zechariah Story, was born May 17, 1789. He received such common school education as the first settlers were able to give their children. He determined upon the study of medicine, and as a means to that end engaged in school teaching through the winter months. In the autumn of 1813 he completed his medical studies at Hanover, N. H. In 1814 he went to Rushford, N. Y., where he remained for three years, having a large practice. He was the first practising physician in Rushford (then Caneadea) and so far as known the second in Allegany County. In 1817 he was prostrated by a severe illness which lasted three months, and upon recovering sufficiently to endure the journey, he determined upon a visit to his friends in Windsor, Vermont. Here he was induced to settle permanently, living with his father upon the home farm many years. He died November 13, 1868, having spent fifty years in the practice of his profession. Dr. Story held various public offices, delivered addresses on public occasions and in 1846 and 1847 was a member of the legislature. Dr. Jesse P. Bixby met him at Ludlow, Vermont, years after he left Rushford.

Horatio H. Smith was a doctor in Rushford in 1819.



Orrin T. Stacy, M. D.

## Physicians

He was then twenty-four years of age. In 1827 he was a member of the Allegany County Medical Society.

William Smith came to Rushford about 1840. He would drive about the country with his reins loose reading some book upon medical science. Drs. Charles W. and John H. Saunders studied medicine with Dr. Smith and later in accordance with his wishes were graduated from Bellevue Medical College, New York City.

J. M. Ward offered his professional services as early as 1844. He lived in the house now occupied by W. F. Benjamin on the west side of Lower Street, the second door from the bridge.

J. M. Copp was in Rushford in 1845. He was associated with Dr. Wm. Smith, probably as a student. He afterwards practised in Machias.

L. B. Johnson in 1846 lived two doors north of the Washington House on Buffalo Street. His office was in the Union Block. He was living in Rushford in 1855.

H. H. Smith, formerly of Angelica, located in Rushford about 1846.

Wm. McCall in 1847 and 1848 was practising medicine with Dr. H. H. Smith. In March, 1848, he said that he had so far recovered his health that he had relinquished all other business and was ready to attend to all calls pertaining to his profession by day or by night, in storm or sunshine.

William B. Alley, in 1847, introduced himself to the public, saying that his business was to combat all diseases of this climate. His office was in the Union Block. He removed to Angelica, then later to Nunda.

A. B. Stewart was a physician in Rushford in 1850.

—— Ripley practised medicine in Rushford a few years, leaving in 1852. His wife was a sister of William



## The Medical Profession

Bradley, a wagonmaker of the town. He lived in the house now owned by Mrs. Helen Laning.

Jesse P. Bixby was born in Mt. Holly, Vermont, in 1822. He was graduated from the Medical College in Castleton, Vermont, in 1852. The next year he located in Rushford where he is still practising.

William A. Stacy. See "Recollections of a Doctor."

James Pitts was in Rushford in the late fifties.

John C. Pitts was one of Rushford's physicians in the early sixties.

John P. Colgrove was a medical student under his uncle, James Pitts, then for a year (1860-61) he studied in the College of Medicine and Surgery, Cincinnati. He then followed his profession with another uncle, John C. Pitts of Rushford, until November, 1862, when he assumed the practice of John L. Eddy in Allegany. In 1892 he was living in Salamanca.

Orrin T. Stacy, son of William A. Stacy, was born in Centerville, New York, in 1835. He read medicine in his father's office and was graduated from the Medical College in Buffalo in 1860. He practised medicine in Rushford twenty-five years. In 1885, when he removed to Rochester. Rushford suffered a great loss. He is president of the O. T. Stacy Company, candy manufacturers, Rochester, New York.

Corydon C. Mason was a student of Dr. Colgrove of Sardinia. He attended lectures in New York City and Buffalo and located in Freedom, Cattaraugus County. In 1866 he came to Rushford where he practised a short time. He was a well-read physician. He died in Rushford January 21, 1891.

Robert Y. Charles was graduated from the Medical College in Buffalo in 1870. The same year he came from

## Physicians

Angelica to Rushford where he practised medicine about twelve years.

B. B. Grover came to Rushford in 1880 and remained about a year. He is now living in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

W. F. Wells was graduated from the Medical College in Buffalo in 1883. He was a practising physician in Rushford for a number of years, but is now a preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Church in East Aurora, Erie County.

Charles W. Guild located in Rushford in 1889 where he remained about two years. He died in 1900.

Charles O. Sayres was born in New Hudson in 1869. He read medicine with Dr. E. B. Burdick of Olean. In 1892 he was graduated from the Medical Department of the University of Buffalo. The same year he came to Rushford where he practised medicine five years, then he moved to Belfast where he now resides.

Fred C. Ballard, a graduate of the Medical Department of the University of Buffalo, began his practice in Rushford in 1897. He is one of the resident physicians.

C. I. Dodge located in Rushford in 1902. After remaining in the place two years, he moved to the State of Maine.

Earl D. Kilmer was born in Rushford, and was graduated from her High School in 1897. In 1904 he was graduated from the Medical Department of the University of Buffalo. He is the last physician to locate in Rushford.

## ANECDOTES, ETC.

**D**R. WILLIAM SMITH lived on Main Street in a building that stood at the west end of the Brick Block. It was afterwards used by C. W. Woodworth as a postoffice

## Anecdotes, Etc.

and law office. Dr. Smith's land extended to the Hyde lot, and on the grounds of the present High School building was his orchard.

Mrs. Smith made so tempting pies that if she placed one on the shelf before the pantry window to cool, it would disappear. Dr. Smith thought he would find out the culprit, so the next time that Mrs. Smith made pies he doctored one with ipecac. This pie also disappeared, but it was not long before the doctor was called to see a sick boy.

### ANECDOTE OF F. E. WOODS.

The services of Dr. William Smith as a physician in Rushford are worthy of special mention. He was a graduate of a medical school in New York City, and was noted far and near as having a high standing in his profession. Dr. Gillette told me at the Centennial of Rushford that he studied under Dr. Smith and was with him at his death. My parents related that Mr. Asa Benjamin once had an attack of lop-jaw, and a physician was called who endeavored to reduce it, but after some time acknowledged his failure and said, "I guess you will have to send for Dr. Smith." He came and seeing what was needed to be done, said to the other physician, "Please see if my horse is standing where I left it." While the other was looking out of the window, Dr. Smith quickly pressed the lopped jaw into place, then quietly took his departure. Dr. Smith was related by marriage to Drs. John and Charles Saunders of Belfast, having married an aunt of theirs from Franklinville.

### ANECDOTE OF ANON.

Dr. James Pitts was located in Rushford before his brother John. John took James' place. When John came to town Newell De Kay was taking him around to intro-

## Physicians

duce him to people. They met on the sidewalk a man to whom he introduced Dr. Pitts as Dr. James Pitts' brother. He shook hands with Dr. John and said that he never had the pleasure of his brother James' acquaintance, thank God. He was an early Methodist and added, "Thank God," or something similar to every sentence. Sometimes it was not very appropriate.

## RECOLLECTIONS OF A PHYSICIAN

Orrin T. Stacy

THE spirit which animated the medical profession and the services which they gave in the pioneer days of Western New York, are worthy of consideration in any review of those times. The early settlers came to a wilderness with scanty supplies and little money. They endured many hardships and lived under unsanitary conditions. Poverty was nearly universal and sickness prevalent. Nearly all business was barter or exchange of one farm product for another. The services of the physician were at times of epidemics in almost constant requisition night and day. All the roads were miserable and some were merely logways or trails through large tracts of forest so that horseback riding was the only practicable way the physician could make the rounds among his patients. Fatigue or loss of sleep did not excuse the pioneer physician in his own mind from responding to the call of the sick. His pay was pitifully small and totally inadequate to properly provide for the needs of a large family. Any physician who collected one-half of his small fees would have made a major general of finance if he had lived in these times. There was a prevailing feeling of sympathy and comradeship among the early settlers. If

## Recollections of a Physician

a man was sick his neighbors planted, cultivated and harvested his crops freely without pay. Why should not the physician doctor him without fees?

In the absence of any records to consult, I am obliged to write wholly from memory and I wish it understood that the physicians mentioned and incidents related are typical and that many physicians were animated by the same spirit, were equally well qualified and met with similar experiences.

It happened that the first physician with whom I became acquainted was my father, Dr. William A. Stacy. He took three courses of lectures at Castleton Academy, Vermont, and at the University of Vermont, in 1822, 1823 and 1824. In the intervals between the lecture courses he studied in the office of Dr. P. B. Havens in Hamilton, Vermont. He was twenty-six years old when he commenced the study of medicine, had a good academic education, had taught school and was therefore fitted by age and discipline to profit by his medical instruction. In the summer of 1824 he married Nancy Bingham, only child of Nathan Bingham. As soon as arrangements could be completed, my father with his bride seventeen years of age, with her parents, started in a land schooner for the Holland Purchase in New York State.

They reached Centerville the last of October, 1824. Dr. Stacy bought the home and practice of Dr. Weld and on election day Dr. Weld took Dr. Stacy to the election to introduce him to the people. In those days every man went to election in the morning and stayed till night, devoting the whole day to athletic sports and corn spirits. Dr. Stacy was soon challenged to wrestle with some local athlete. Fortunately that part of a boy's education was not neglected in Vermont. The challenge was accepted and in the bout the challenger was thrown to the frozen ground with such force



## Physicians

that his kneecap was broken. He became the patient of the new doctor who had thus won his first patient by his muscle.

Dr. Stacy soon had a practice sufficient to tax to the utmost his hardy constitution. His practice extended into all the surrounding towns, including a considerable portion of the north half of Rushford. Probably at that time more than one-half of that country was covered with dense forests. At one time night overtook him in the woods near Crystal Lake and he found himself traveling in a circle. He was unable to get out of the woods and was obliged to hitch his horse and spend the night sitting on a log. At another time he was riding on a road through woods late at night when his horse and himself were frightened by the menacing growl of some wild animal a few feet from the road. The horse turned in a flash and raced back to the house that they had started from. In the morning some hunters and dogs traced the animal to the east side of the Genesee River, found him in a treetop and shot him. It was a lynx. In November, 1833, Dr. Stacy was riding home from Rushford at about three o'clock in the morning when he witnessed one of the most startling and brilliant natural phenomena recorded in history, the great storm of meteors of that year.

In 1856 Dr. Stacy moved to Rushford and continued the practice of medicine. He had a keen sense of humor and was usually able to get some fun out of the most vexatious circumstances. After attending a family in which the various members had taken turns in having typhoid fever, the sickness covering a period of about four months, the first payment he received on the bill came in the shape of a dressed pig so poor and skinny that he credited the debtor with one-hundred-sixty-five pounds of pork rind. He never made any complaint to the man but got full value received out of the amusement he extracted from the transaction. He

## Recollections of a Physician

left Elijah Metcalf's house on the Creek Road one dark night and had been but a short time on the road when the horse stopped and looked back at him. The doctor hit the horse a gentle cut with the whip and he started up again on a trot. After going a few rods farther he stopped again and looked back. The doctor got out in the dark to investigate and found that one of the thills was not in the loop which holds it up and the horse had recognized the fact. The doctor said that he took off his hat and made all apologies due from one gentleman to another. He ever after drove that horse, night and day, without any bits in his mouth. One morning Dr. Stacy was called in great haste to the top of Lyndon Hill to see a sick boy. On arriving at the bedside of the small patient, he found the grandmother of the motherless boy in a state of great alarm over the condition of the boy. After the doctor had carefully examined the patient, she anxiously inquired if the boy would get well. She then said that if he was sure that the boy would get well she would tell him what she had done. She said the boy got up in the morning and didn't care for any breakfast and wanted to be excused from going to school. She thought that inasmuch as it was so far to call a doctor she would first see what she could do for him. After thoroughly examining the cupboard the only medicine that she was able to find was some eye-water so she gave him a teaspoon of that which acted as a prompt emetic and also terribly frightened the grandmother.

After forty-one years of service among the sick, I do not think that Dr. Stacy was ever accused of slighting any patient because there was no prospect of receiving pay. His last sickness was caused by blood-poisoning, contracted from a patient whom he was attending.

One of the oldest physicians that I remember in Rush

## Physicians

ford was Dr. William Smith. I only knew him from the general reputation which he bore when I first went to Rushford, fifty-eight years ago. I think he came from New York City. He had a large practice and was so entirely devoted to it that in a busy time he made no charges. He rarely if ever presented a bill for any services; people paid him when and what they saw fit. It was said of him that every spring time he was made sick trying to eat the veal that his patrons brought him. He was a well qualified physician of excellent natural ability.

Dr. John Saunders of Belfast, a relative, studied medicine with him and imbibed a large share of his spirit of devotion to the duties of his profession.

When I commenced practice in Rushford, forty-eight years ago, pioneer conditions existed in spots, especially in what was known as the Pine Woods. Two or three incidents which I will mention will serve to illustrate the joys of medical practice in the "good old days." In the first month of my practice, March, I received a call in the night to go to Porter Swift's; I was told to go to East Rushford, turn to the right and go up the hill to the second house. I went to East Rushford, crossed the bridge and began to climb the hill. There was a violent storm of snow and sleet and it was so dark that I could not see any object. I got to the top of the hill without seeing a house. My horse ran into some object which I got out of my sulky to investigate and found to be an old-fashioned drag. I discovered a small house near the road and roused the occupant who informed me that I was on the wrong road, that I should have turned to the right before I came to the mill pond. I started to go back and proceeded a few rods in the total darkness when suddenly, without my knowing what had done it, the horse, sulky and myself were pitched into the corner of

## Recollections of a Physician

the fence. I was able to crawl out of the heap, the horse floundered, the sulky cracked and I could smell from the wreck all sorts of odors which came from my demolished medicine case. After quite a long struggle the horse gave it up and quieted down. By the sense of feeling I unhitched, unhooked, and cut straps enough so that I could pull the sulky away. After getting the horse on its feet I got on its back in quite a dilapidated condition and rode home, leaving the patient to get well without my interference. I went back the next day and found that I had tried to run over a pine stump about four feet high and three and one-half feet in diameter. This stump stood in the center of the highway.

In 1863 I received a call one July day to visit a patient at John Ryecraft's who lived where he now lives, but in stead of the present stately buildings set in well tilled fields, there was a pioneer cottage set in a field of stumps, surrounded by a considerable forest and reached by a logway extending from near the pond to his house. The logway ran for a considerable distance through primeval forest and was worn from a half foot to a foot deep. I reached his house near night and realized that a great storm was coming from the southwest. After hurried attentions to the patient I started for home, Mr. Ryecraft offering to go with me to the highway. We had not gone far when the storm broke on us in great fury, the wind almost amounted to a tornado, the rain came in torrents, the lightning was almost continuous and the crash of falling trees freely mingled with the almost continuous roar of thunder. We took the horse out of the sulky and Mr. Ryecraft took his place and drew it, I following behind leading the horse through what was now a canal. We had not gone far in the woods when Mr. Ryecraft came up against a tree that had just fallen across the logway and called back to me what he had found. I



## Physicians

led the horse to the fallen tree and the same moment a flash of lightning revealed a woman standing on the other side of the tree, her face a few inches from mine, and emitting an unearthly shriek. Mr. Rycraft and myself both recognized her by the lightning flash, but she seemed to think that we were some demons of the storm and continued to scream for some time, but at last recognized the voice of Mr. Rycraft who was one of her neighbors. It was Mrs. Ned Mountain. She always maintained that she never recovered from the fright and exposure of that night. Mr. Rycraft was a stalwart and resolute man equal to almost any occasion but he could not turn aside falling trees or ward off lightning. I have always gratefully remembered his kindness in going through the woods with me that night.

In length of practice and constancy to his calling through more than one-half a century of faithful service, I think that Jesse P. Bixby holds precedence over all the physicians who ever lived in Rushford. He has many of the elements of a skillful surgeon.

Since the pioneer physician made his rounds among the sick there have been many refinements in the practice of medicine and some improvements, but there has not been a remedy discovered in the last hundred years, except the diphtheria, tetanus and rabies antitoxins, which the modern physician could not dispense with and still practise medicine with the most brilliant success. More than sixty years ago most physicians believed that all infectious diseases were caused by germs and confidently anticipated the ultimate discovery and identification of these germs. More than sixty years ago my father was convinced that pulmonary consumption was infectious and was communicated by disease germs but he had no correct idea how that germ was transferred. The development of antisepsis has made



## Recollections of a Physician

a new epoch in the science and practice of surgery and has resulted in the saving of an enormous number of lives.

My twenty-five years of medical practice in Rushford was at times strenuous and exhausting but on the whole I thoroughly enjoyed it. All the unpleasant features have long been forgotten and a thousand pleasant memories remain. All the gratitude and appreciation which I ever deserved were freely given. The intimacy with so many families which only the physician enjoys, served to increase my respect for human nature and to lead me to believe that I was fortunate in the people with whom I lived and worked the best part of my life.

## VII

### TOWN MEETINGS, SUPERVISORS AND TOWN CLERKS

**M**ONEY belonging to the town of Caneadea before the same was subdivided, remaining in the following hands, viz.:

In the hands of Cromwell Bennett:

A balance of Charles Swift.....\$32.21

In the hands of Ebenezer P. Perry:

James Orcutt's Note for License..... \$5.00

Lorin Francis' Note for License..... 5.00

At the first annual town meeting of the town of Rushford held at the house of Levi Benjamin in said town agreeable to the Act of the Legislature on the day of April, A. D. 1816, the town officers for said town were chosen as follows, viz.:

Supervisor—Doct. Dyer Story.

Town Clerk—Pliny Bannister.

Assessors—Abel Belknap, Matthew P. Cady, Roderick Bannister.

Commissioners of Highways—Tarbel Gordon, Jerry White, James Orcutt.

Collector—Daniel Woods.

Constables—Levi Benjamin, Thomas L. Pratt.

Overseers of the Poor—Ebenezer P. Perry, Levi Benjamin.

School Commissioners—Eliab Going, William Vaughan, Wm. L. Gary.

## Town Meetings, Supervisors and Town Clerks

Inspectors of Schools—Doct. Dyer Story, Abel Belknap, Reuben Bennet.

Overseers of Highway, Fence Viewers, Damage Prisers and Pound Keepers—Joshua Wilson, Danial Woods, Junia Freeman, Joseph Young, Leonard Farwell, Jonathan Going, Amba Alderman, Charles Swift, Jr., William Vaughan, Cromwell Bennet, Matthew P. Cady.

Also the following resolutions were passed:

Resolved, that there be raised \$250.00 town's money for the use of the Commissioners of Highway.

Resolved, that the Commissioners of Highway be directed to divide the town money raised for their use amongst the several districts according to the length of road in each.

Resolved, that Hogs shall not be free Commoners.

Resolved, that our next annual town meeting shall be held at the house of Samson Hardy, innkeeper.

### SECOND TOWN MEETING.

The town clerk being absent, Roderick Bannister was appointed to serve in his stead by James McCall, Eneas Gearey, Jesse Bullock, Justices of the Peace on the first day of March, 1817.

Resolved, that in case the law granting a State bounty for the destruction of wolves be repealed, this town give five dollars for each and every full grown wolf killed in the town by a person residing in the town. And in case the County bounty for the same purpose be removed then this town pay the sum of ten dollars in lieu of the aforementioned five.

At the seventh anniversary town meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Rushford held at the Baptist meeting house agreeable to adjournment on the fifth of March, 1822,

## Town Meetings, Supervisors and Town Clerks

Resolved, that inspectors of common schools have fifty cents per day for their services.

Inspectors of Schools—James Going, Samuel White and Joel Burlingame.

### Supervisors of the town of Rushford since 1816:

Cromwell Bennett, 1817-19.	Winthrop P. Young, 1857-58.
Matthew P. Cady, 1820-24.	Washington White, 1859-60.
William Hull, 1825.	Bates T. Hapgood, 1861-62.
Samuel White, 1826-27, 1841-44.	Charles W. Woodworth, 1866-74, 1884-86.
Tarbel Gordon, 1828-30, 1832-34.	Jedediah B. Gordon, 1875-76.
Samson Hardy, 1831, 1837-38.	William E. Kyes, 1877-78.
John Hammond, 1835-36.	Willard A. Stone, 1879-81.
Abraham J. Lyon, 1839-40.	Charles B. Kendall, 1882.
Isaiah Lathrop, 1845-46.	A. L. Litchard, 1883, 1894-1905.
Orville Boardman, 1847-48.	Henry A. Holden, 1887-88, 1893.
Samuel Gordon, 1849-50.	William H. Benson, 1889.
James Gordon, 1851-52.	Grover M. Pratt, 1890-92.
Avery Washburn, 1853-4, 1863-65.	Elmer A. Gere, 1906-1907.
Ebenezer P. Lyon, 1855.	Ralph B. Laning, 1908—
John W. Hill, 1856.	

### Town Clerks since 1816.

James Going, 1817.	Harvey George, 1848-50.
Eneas Garey, 1818, 1822-26.	A. W. Colby, 1851.
Matthew P. Cady, 1819.	Washington White, 1852-54, 1856- 57.
Chesterfield Parsons, 1820-21.	Harry Howe, 1855.
Oramel Griffin, 1827, 1835-36.	Lucius C. Kimball, 1858-75.
Orville Boardman, 1828-34, 1845- 46.	Watson W. Bush, 1876-1903.
Charles Gilman, 1837-38, 1841-42.	John A. Benjamin, 1904-07.
Harmon Hyde, 1839, 1840, 1847.	Frank W. Damon, 1908-09.
Isaiah Lathrop, 1843-44.	William W. Bush, 1910.

### State Senators resident in Rushford:

James McCall, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827.

### Members of Assembly resident in Rushford:

James McCall, 1818, 1819, 1823.	Orrin T. Stacy, 1874, 1875.
Grover Leavens, 1847.	Alamanzo W. Litchard, 1898, 1899, 1900.
Orville Boardman, 1849.	
Lucien B. Johnson, 1855.	



Alamanzo W. Litchard



VIII  
SOCIETIES  
LODGES OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

THE RUSHFORD LODGE.

Compiled by H. J. W. G.

**P**ETITION for a lodge in the town of Rushford in the County of Allegany: to be called. Recommended by Angelica Lodge, No. 167.

To the Right worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York.

Your petitioners Master Masons members of the Angelica Lodge and others from different parts of this State—Resident in the Town of Rushford & County of Allegany—beg leave to represent that we live remote from any Lodge of M. Mason—Angelica being the nearest and that eighteen miles from the most of us—and we, though few in number feel a desire to promote the Happiness of Mankind by extending the benefits of the Masonic Institution to all who may be found worthy and well qualified well knowing that it is founded on a firm basis and good principles to create Harmony—friendship and Brotherly love—we therefore pray the worshipful Grand Master to grant a dispensation to work in the several degrees of Masonry for such Length of time as to him may see proper—To Initiate, pass and Raise Candidates To the degree of Master Masons and we Take the liberty To recommend our worthy Brother Lyman Blake/lee for Worshipful Master—and our worthy Brother Matthew P. Cady for Seignior Warden & our worthy Brother Charles Swift for Junior Warden and pray that

## Free and Accepted Masons

they may be appointed accordingly and your petitioners will ever pray.

Canneadea February 12—in the year of Masonry 5816—  
—of our Lord 1816—

Jedediah Nobels  
Samuel Upham  
Matthew P. Cady  
Cornelius D. Board  
Charles Swift  
James Orcutt  
Lyman Blakeslee.

The foregoing petition was addressed to “Daniel Crager, Esq., Postmaster Bath, Now at Albany N. Y.” It was marked “Free” and dated “Angelica, Feby. 13, 1816.” It was desired that he would forward the petition to the Grand Lodge and endeavor to obtain a dispensation for them while he was in Albany.

### RECOMMENDATION.

To the right worshipful Master, Warden and Brethren of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York Free and accepted Masons—The officers & Brethren of the Angelica Lodge Being personally acquainted with the Gentlemen whose names are annexed to this Petition these know them to be men of good morals and we think they will conform to all the rules and regulations of masonry—we therefore feel free to Recommend them to the Grand Lodge for a Dispensation.

By order of Angelica Lodge

Amos Peabody  
Secretary of Angelica Lodge

Names of persons initiated passed, or admitted as Members of Rushford Lodge No. 275 from the 18th March 5817 to the 24th June 5818.

## Societies

Names.	Place of Birth.	Place of Res.
Lyman Blakeslee <sup>1</sup> .....	Weathersfield, Vt.	Rushford
Matthew P. Cady <sup>1</sup> .....	Windsor, Vt.	Rushford
Charles Swift, Jr. <sup>2</sup> .....		Rushford
Cornelius D. Board <sup>3</sup> .....		Rushford
Wm. Hull <sup>4</sup> .....	Mason, N. H.	Rushford
Samuel Upham <sup>2</sup> .....	Weathersfield, Vt.	Rushford
James Orcutt.....		Rushford
Sam. H. Morgan.....		Friendship
Z. Z. Caswell.....	Norton, Mass.	Angelica
Cromwell Bennett.....		Rushford
Levi Benjamin.....	Ashburnham, Mass.	Rushford
Alanson Thomas.....	Rensselaer, N. Y.	Rushford
Joshua L. Delano.....		Rushford
Alfred Forbes.....	Colerain, Mass	Pike
Wayne Banister <sup>5</sup> .....	Windsor, Vt.	Rushford
Richard B. White.....	Hartland, Vt.	Rushford
Simon C. Moore.....		Friendship
Asa Harris.....	Brooklyn, Conn.	Caneadea
Eliab Going.....	Reading, Vt.	Rushford
Jacob S. Rappleye.....	New Jersey	Rushford
Joseph Wilson.....		Caneadea
Joseph Maxson.....		Pike
Andrew Sherburn.....		
Warren Banister.....	Windsor, Vt.	Rushford
Adin Spalding <sup>6</sup> .....	Cavendish, Vt.	Rushford
Darius Spalding.....	Cavendish, Vt.	Rushford
Jeremiah L. Rappleye.....	New Jersey	Rushford

<sup>1</sup> Initiated in Vermont Lodge, No. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Initiated in Angelica Lodge, No. 167.

<sup>3</sup> Initiated in Washington Lodge.

<sup>4</sup> Initiated in Brothers Lodge, No. 147.

<sup>5</sup> Initiated in Eastern Star Lodge, No. 41, Vermont.

<sup>6</sup> Initiated in Rising Sun Lodge, No. 22, Ohio.

## Free and Accepted M<sup>a</sup>sons

Ephraim D. White.....	Hartland, Vt.	Rushford
Enos Gary.....		Rushford

Names of Persons who have been entered as Members of Rushford Lodge, No. 275, from the 24th day of June, A. D. 5819, to the 27th day of December, A. D. 5822.

Names of Members	Age.	Occupation.	Residence.
Daniel Huntley.....	34	Farmer	Ischua
Richard Tozer.....	30	Farmer	Ischua
Peleg Robbins.....	25	Farmer	Ischua
Levi Peet.....	35	Farmer	Ischua
Aden Griffith.....	33	Farmer	Caneadea
Jonathan Carpenter.....	22	Farmer	Ischua
Ebenezer K. Howe.....	21	Farmer	Rushford
Thomas Morris.....	43	Farmer	Rushford
Jonathan Post.....	—	Preacher	Angelica
Horatio Smith.....	24	Doctor	Rushford
Adolphus Mavey.....	—	Carpenter	Rushford
Peter Ten Breock.....	25	Farmer	Ischua
Joseph Young.....	37	Farmer	Rushford
John Brown.....	32	Trader	Richmond
Simon Wilson.....	37	Farmer	Caneadea
Wm. L. Gary (1820).....	30	Farmer	Rushford
Andre Bennett.....	32	Farmer	Rushford
Zechariah Lawrence.....	38	Farmer	Rushford
Amos Rose.....	37	Farmer	Rushford
Stephen Hardy.....	22	Farmer	Rushford
Samuel Upham (withdrew)			
Oliver Plumb.....	43	Carpenter	Centerville
Lewis Wilson.....	—	Farmer	Rushford
Freeman S. Wilson.....	—	Farmer	Caneadea
Daniel Ingersol.....	—	Farmer	Caneadea
Timothy S. Daniels (1822).—		Carpenter	Caneadea

## Societies

James Green.....—		Great Valley
Jacob S. McCall.....22	Farmer	Rushford
George P. Ketchum.....38	Farmer	Caneadea
Cyrus H. Clement.....25	Joiner	Caneadea
Allen P. Torrey.....30	Farmer	Rushford
Charles Gary.....27	Farmer	Rushford
Pliny Bannister.....—	Farmer	Rushford
Roderick Bannister.....—	Farmer	Rushford

In the report of June 5818 to June 5819, the names of John Hammond of Rushford, Joseph McClure of Ischua and Titus Gillet are found.

To the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York.

Be it known that on the 21st day of December 5825 at a regular meeting of the Rushford Lodge No. 275 held in the town of Rushford County of Allegany in the State of New York our worthy Brother John Hammond was duly elected and instated Master our worthy Brother Joseph Youngs seignior Warden and our worthy Brother Stephen Hardy Junior Warden of the said Lodge for the ensuing year.

In testimony whereof we the members of said Lodge have caused the Seal thereof to be hereunto affixed and our Secretary to sign the same.

Oramel Griffin, Secty.

### NOTES.

Jedediah Nobels, whose name appears on the petition, kept the first tavern in what is now Belfast. It was at his house that the first town meeting for Caneadea was held in 1808.

Joseph Maxson of Pike was the first settler in Centerville. Centerville was formed from Pike in 1819.



## Joseph Enos Lodge

Alfred Forbes of Pike was later the first town clerk of Centerville.

Sam. H. Morgan and Simon C. Moore lived in what was later called Cuba. At this time Cuba was a part of the town of Friendship. Richard Tozer, Peleg Robbins, Levi Peet and Peter Ten Broeck were the first settlers of Farmersville. In 1820 Ischua embraced the towns of Franklinville, Farmersville, Lyndon, Ellicottville, Freedom and Yorkshire.

James Green was the first permanent settler of Great Valley and the first supervisor of Olean.

Mrs. Harriet Going Colby of Holland, New York, says that the meetings of the Rushford Lodge were held in a building that stood where William Woodworth's grocery\* used to stand. In the second story of this building the Masons kept their "goat," a terror to small children. The lodge went down because of the Morgan excitement.

## JOSEPH ENOS LODGE

Eddy C. Gilbert

**J**OSEPH ENOS LODGE of Free and Accepted Masons commenced work under dispensation May 4th, 1853. August 19th, 1854, the lodge received its charter from the Grand Lodge of Masons of the State of New York, and the following officers were duly installed:

Hiram Johnson.....	Master
George Cole.....	Senior Warden
Henry Kirke White.....	Junior Warden
Ira Bishop.....	Secretary
David Babbitt.....	Treasurer

\*The site of William Woodworth's grocery is now the flower garden of Mrs. Ida Litchard on Upper Street near the head of Main Street.

## Societies

The following have served as Masters:

Henry Kirke White...	1885	A. Fraser.....	1880
David Babbitt.....	1856	Myron Claus.....	1882
S. F. Dickinson.....	1857	Eddy C. Gilbert...	1886
C. W. Woodworth...	1859	Wm. Barber.....	1887
E. George.....	1860	W. F. Wells.....	1889
W. White.....	1862	A. Fraser.....	1891
E. George.....	1863	Eddy C. Gilbert...	1892
C. W. Woodworth...	1865	M. B. Nye.....	1894
J. P. Bixby, M. D....	1866	Daniel W. Gilbert.	1897
W. E. Kyes.....	1870	Abel M. Tarbell...	1902
E. F. McCall.....	1876	Eddy C. Gilbert...	1904
W. E. Kyes.....	1877	W. H. Thomas	1910

David H. Brooks was Secretary for twenty-three years.

In 1858 they moved to the hall over the drug store in the Concrete Block which had recently been built. They still occupy the same hall. In the early years lodge meetings were held in the afternoon. Dr. H. R. Palmer was a member of this lodge at the time of his death. The lodge was named from Joseph Enos, a prominent Mason, who was Grand Master of Masons of the State of New York 1822-1824.

## BANQUET OF RUSHFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE evening of February 22, 1890, the Historical Society met in the pleasant parlors of Mrs. L. E. Hardy to celebrate the anniversary of the birthday of George Washington. Among the guests were some notable in the history of our country. Over the company beamed the benignant faces of General\* and Mrs.† Washington. The years

\*Cyrus Croop.

†Mrs. Edward Maguire.

## Banquet of Historical Society

seemed to have touched them lightly. The general's commanding figure was still unbent, his dress was faultless from his silver shoe buckles to his powdered hair; Martha was still as charming as when a blooming widow she won the heart of George Washington. Molly Stark's smiling face beneath her matron's cap spoke plainly that the country was saved and she not a widow. This was confirmed by the presence of General Stark‡ himself in full uniform. Mrs. Sedgwick with her intellectual face set off by a high cap was also present.

There was Israel Putnam§ with a collar too high, and a stock which gave him considerable trouble; he also had a fatal tendency to tread on the trains of the ladies; but still he bore himself with the dignity becoming an old veteran in the presence of his beloved general. When Master Holmes Wallace gave a select reading upon the doings of Israel Putnam, the old soldier declared that he remembered them as if they had happened yesterday. Mr. Munger then remarked that he had understood that Washington had a charmed life, that no bullet could hit him; he wondered if the solution was not to be found in these words, "A prudent man foreseeth evil and hideth himself: but the simple pass on and are punished." The latter part of the proverb he thought would apply to Putnam who was the only disabled veteran present. Putnam was then called upon for a speech, but he declared that he was a fighter and not a maker of speeches.

After "ye old time musique" the company repaired to the dining room, the walls of which were decorated with the national emblems and pictures of the associates of Washington. The hanging lamp was draped with red, white

‡Dr. C. W. Guild.

§Eddy C. Gilbert.

## Societies

and blue; perforated tin lanterns hung about the room; and the tables, lighted by candles, were spread with delicious viands, fitting the occasion.

The banquet was presided over by Prof. E. Maguire, master of ceremonies. At a table apart were General and Mrs. Washington; on each side was a long row of tables for the other guests. When all were seated quotations were given from the sayings of Washington. The toast, "George Washington, the father of his country," was responded to in a happy manner by the Rev. W. L. Munger.

A telegram was then brought to the door by Washington's private page. It read as follows: "The Rushford innocents abroad send greetings from Mt. Vernon." Mrs. Alice Lathrop Holden, a member of the Historical Society, was one of the "innocents abroad."

When rising from the table, with waving of hands and handkerchiefs, three rousing cheers were given for Washington, the first president of these United States,—*"first in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen."* Again assembling in the parlor, Dr. W. F. Wells read the only letter in existence written by Washington to his wife. A library chair, once belonging to General Herkimer of Revolutionary fame, then in possession of his grand niece, Mrs. J. E. Wallace of Rushford, was brought forward and its history given by the Rev. J. E. Wallace. A patriotic song was sung by "ye ancient choir" amid the merriment of the company. Miss Stacy (Mrs. D. Wilkin) rendered a piece of instrumental music with pleasing effect. Mrs. Maguire sang that sweet and touching song, *"The Old Folks at Home,"* and the company began to break up, declaring they had spent a delightful evening.

(Arranged mainly from an article in the *Rushford Spectator*, 1890.—H. J. W. G.)

## IX

### WAR

#### AN INTERESTING LETTER OF WAR TIME

THE following was written by A. W. E. Damon to his nephew during the stirring times of the Civil War. Some of the older people of Rushford will remember Mr. Lyman as an active young man and school teacher who at the age of twenty-one, in the fall of 1856, went to northern Illinois. That was a comparatively new country at that date and seemed to be the "Far West," Chicago being hardly twenty-five years from settlement and the Erie Railroad to Cuba only five or six years old. He was ambitious but met with one heavy reverse after another until plunged, by fraud probably, some \$8,000 or \$9,000 into debt with nothing to show. By dint of energy and perseverance he came out from under it, became a prosperous banker, engaged to some extent in manufactures and was a director in a railroad company. He was one of the most prominent laymen, perhaps the foremost, in the great Rock River Conference of the Methodist Church.

Rushford, Dec. 2d, 1861.

Dear Nephew and family,

Yours of Oct. 3d came to hand in due time. The time had been so long since you had written us that we had almost concluded your business absorbed your time and attention too much to write us. We were happily disappointed and hope we shall not have occasion to think so again. Moreover we will try and answer you sooner than we have this time. Yesterday, Sunday, was the first wintry day we have had. People have continued to plow till last Saturday.



## War

Our crops of all kinds were just about middling fair for this country. Dairies sold very low this fall,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  cents. \* \* \* Mr. Evans has enlisted for three years. He has been at the camp at Elmira for two months. Was home last week. Some 4,000 men there. They leave this week for Washington. He is in the 64th Regiment, N. Y. S. V., Col. Parker. He has three brothers in the army. John Worthington's two youngest boys are in the army. The youngest was at Bull Run. Ira Ames was also there. Albert Babbitt was killed there. Rushford and vicinity, Rushford being the nucleus, has sent off at three different times about 130 men, and Rev. (Capt.) John C. Nobles has enlisted about 40 more in this region, who go into winter quarters at Leroy. Uncle John Worthington goes with them. The Colonel of the regiment is Rev. James M. Fuller of Genesee Conference, Presiding Elder for five or six years. I am glad you Western Patriots are doing so much in this our country's trials; but when you go ahead of old Rushford let us know about it. We had at one meeting here over \$2,000 pledged for the benefit of the families of volunteers. Old York State is right side up with care: 130,000 men in the field within seven months of the time Beauregard with his legions roused the slumbering fires of '76 from their ashes. See what Gen. Dix, one of New York's patriot sons, has just accomplished in Accomack and Northumberland, without the loss of a single man. And see what the brave old Gen. Scott said of the N. Y. 69th (Col. Bendix I think), "The best disciplined regiment reviewed at Washington before he left for Europe." It is supposed at the present time that N. Y. has furnished more than her quota, but enough of this. Excuse boasting, won't you? Clark Bannister has just enlisted in the Navy for three years. Wm. O. Kingsbury has three boys in the army, and a Mr. Merrill, on the

## Roster of Soldiers

old Hardy farm, has two sons there. James Tapp and two brothers just over from England have enlisted, two of Clark Kendall's sons, also Lyman B. Metcalf and a son of his. Lyman Eaton's two oldest boys are in a cavalry company, and so it goes. The mass of the people here are fearful of the effect of Fremont's removal, but we hope the government has not done it without good cause. \* \* \*

Your Uncle Alonzo Lyman has been sick but is better. The rest of the family are about as usual. The M. E. Church has had two or three years of trial in Western N. Y. from Nazaritism, but we have stood the storm, and think the bow of promise indicates a more pleasant future. I must bid you an affectionate farewell. Be faithful unto death, and a crown is in waiting.

A. W. Damon and family.

N. E. Lyman and family.

## ROSTER OF SOLDIERS

H. J. W. G.

THE roster contains the names of those who lived in Rushford at time of enlistment, those who now live in Rushford and those who are buried in Rushford. Those of the Civil War marked with an asterisk (\*) did not live in Rushford until after the War. Each soldier was a private unless otherwise stated.

## War

### SOLDIERS OF THE REVOLUTION BURIED IN RUSHFORD

**O**LIVER CROMWELL BENNETT served as a private in Capt. Eell's company, Col. Durkee's regiment, Connecticut Line. Being but sixteen at the opening of the war he first accompanied the regiment in 1776 as a cook or officer's servant. He was in the battle of Long Island August 27, 1776, narrowly escaping capture. Later, in 1780, he was a regularly enlisted man under arms. The records show that he served all of the year 1781.

Ephraim Morrison enlisted April or May, 1780, and served nine months, Captain Levi Stockwell; enlisted April, 1781, and served six months, Captain Dial Sherwood; enlisted October, 1781, and served three months, Captain John Armstrong, Colonel Webster. He engaged in a skirmish between Bloody Pond and Fort George. At time of enlistment he lived in Salem, N. Y. He applied for a pension October 30, 1832, while living in Rushford. He was born in Salem, Washington County, Sept. 10, 1763; died Oct. 15, 1847 at Rushford. He married at Salem, October, 1781, Lucretia Henderson. He moved to Ovid, N. Y., soon after the close of the war and thence to Rushford. There were three sons and a daughter, Rachel, who married David King, Aug. 16, 1798. Widow was allowed a pension in 1848 while a resident of Rushford, aged eighty-five years.

James Gordon—No record in Bureau of Pensions.

Eneas Gary—Age 18; private; enlisted at Lebanon, Conn., January or February, 1776, served two months, Captain Jeremiah Mason; enlisted May or June, 1776, served six months, Captain John Isham; enlisted August, 1776, served two months, Captain Green; engaged in battles of Long Island and White Plains. October 30, 1832, while

## Soldiers of the Revolution

living in Rushford, he applied for a pension. The claim was allowed.

Jonothan Going—Age 18; private; enlisted at Lunenburgh, Worcester County, Massachusetts, July or August, 1779, served seven months, Captains Nathan Smith and Jacob Haskins; enlisted July, 1780, under Justin Ely, commissioner at Springfield, served six months, Captain Phineas Bowman; enlisted July, 1781, to October, 1781, Captain Jonathan Sibley. June 19, 1834, while living at Hinsdale, Cattaraugus County, New York, he applied for a pension. The claim was allowed. He was born at Lunenburgh, Massachusetts. He lived in Vermont from 1782 until 1814.

Daniel Kingsbury of Enfield, Hartland, and Sandisfield, married, February 7, 1771, Rose Pease, daughter of Benjamin Pease of Enfield. He lived in Enfield on land given him by his father; he was sergeant of the company raised in Enfield for the Lexington Alarm, under Major Nathaniel Terry.—“Connecticut Men in the Revolution.” He was appointed ensign in the Second Battalion of State Troops, November, 1776, and served in Rhode Island under General Wooster the following year.

Joshua Wilson of Goffstown, New Hampshire, private in Capt. Samuel Richard's company in Col. John Stark's regiment. Entry—April 23, 1775. Signed receipt for coat money October 10, 1775. Private in Capt. Samuel Blodgett's company in Col. Enoch Poor's regiment; mustered at Goffstown, March 22, 1777. The selectmen's return of Goffstown men engaged in Continental Army during the war also contains his name.

Charles Swift—Enlisted May 15, 1775; service, December, 1777; rank, private; captain, Waterman Clift. Enlisted 1780; service, two months; rank, sergeant; captain, Noel Potter. Enlisted 1781; service, three months; rank, sergeant;

## War

captain, Noel Potter. Enlisted 1781; service, eleven days; captain, Ichabod Robinson. Residence at enlistment, Clarendon, Vermont. Engaged in the battles Dorchester, New York and Germantown. May 7, 1818, while living in Rushford, he applied for a pension; his claim was allowed. He was born June 26, 1754, and died February 20, 1820, at Rushford. He married at Wallingford, Rutland County, Vermont, August 17, 1779, Johanna Jackson, born March 31, 1764. She was allowed a pension on application executed July 21, 1837, while a resident of Rushford. The children were Heman, Abigail, Lorain, Rachel, Charles, Jackson, Samuel, Lurany, Harry, Claricy, Amanda, Van Ransalaer, Betsey, Lorena and George.

Samson Hardy: Appears with rank of private on Lexington Alarm Roll of Capt. John Moore's company, which marched on April 19, 1775, from Bedford, Mass. Length of service, nine days. Town to which soldier belonged, Bedford.

The name Samson Hardy appears on a company receipt, given to Capt. John Ford for wages to October 1, 1776, dated Ticonderoga, October 2, 1776, and endorsed. "25 July 76 marched from Chelmsford; discharged at Albany 1 Jany 77."

## SOLDIERS OF THE WAR OF 1812 BURIED IN RUSHFORD

David Babbitt.

Andre Bennett, sergeant—Enlisted at Caneadea, N. Y., September 5, 1814, and served until November 8, 1814. Captains Gregor and John Kennedy. March 31, 1871, while living at Cuba, N. Y., Rachel Orcutt Bennett applied for a pension. The claim was allowed.

Ira Bishop, private—Enlisted September 9, 1812, at Windsor, Vermont, April 6, 1871, while living in Rushford,



## 23rd N. Y. Vol. Infantry

he applied for a pension. The claim was allowed. He married Sarah Patrick, May 22, 1815, in Vermont. Their children were Louisa (Mrs. Isaac Amsden), John (married Abigail Benjamin), George (married Marietta Spencer), Charlotte (Mrs. William Flagg), Matthew (married Roxana Alvord), Ira (married Caroline Elmore), Albert (married Celestia Amsden), Adaline (Mrs. Andrew J. Ackerly). His second wife was Mrs. S. Couch. He died July 5, 1873, aged eighty years and is buried in the Podonque Cemetery.

Leonard Farwell—Died September 24, 1846.

Benjamin Kingsbury—Went to Fort Niagara from Cherry Valley, N. Y.

John Lamberson, private—Enlisted September 7, 1814, and served until November 14, 1814. Captain Samuel Bant, Major McIntyre. Applied for a pension April 19, 1871. The claim was allowed.

Alvin K. Morse—Died in 1870.

Amos Peck—Married Mary Kellogg at Middlebury (Wyoming), October 20, 1815. Their children were Sarah (Mrs. Reuben Rogers), Philena (Mrs. William Woods), Lorenzo, Philetus, Igel (married Amelia Tarbell), Mary (Mrs. Jason Miller), Arminda, Armena (Mrs. D. Clark Woods). Amos Peck came to Rushford from Wyoming about 1850. He died November 6, 1866.

E. Jabesh Peck—Died February 17, 1850. His curious tombstone in Podonque Cemetery was made by his brother, Dan Peck.

Ebenezer P. Perry.

### SOLDIERS OF THE CIVIL WAR

#### 23RD NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

##### COMPANY B.

Otis Kingsbury—Aged 21; enlisted May 1, 1862; discharged May 22, 1863, by reason of expiration of term of

## War

enlistment. Subsequent service in 13th Heavy Artillery.

Henry Wallace—Age 21; enlisted Aug. 29, 1862, for three years; discharged June 24, 1865, at Fortress Monroe, Virginia.

### 26TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

#### COMPANY C.

\*James Wilson—Age 22; enlisted August 13, 1861, at Rochester to serve three years; mustered in as private September 5, 1861; promoted corporal January 1, 1862; wounded September 17, 1862, at Antietam, Maryland; returned to ranks February 28, 1863; mustered out with company May 28, 1863, at Utica, N. Y.

#### COMPANY I.

\*Everett S. Thompson—Age 19; enlisted April 19, 1861, in State service; mustered in U. S. service May, 1861, for three months; after the expiration of the three months turned over for the remainder of two years; wounded at the second Battle of Bull Run; discharged January 10, 1863. Subsequent service in 24th New York Cavalry

### 27TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

#### COMPANY I.

(Formed at Angelica.)

Most of the Rushford boys were enrolled at a mass meeting in Academy Hall on May 3. The company was mustered into State service on May 13 and into United States service on May 21. The company was mustered out at Elmira on May 31, 1863.

Ira Ames—Age 25; mustered in May 21, 1861; discharged because of disability February 11, 1863, at White Oak Church, Virginia.

Albert Babbitt—Aged 26; enlisted May 13, 1861; killed

## 27th N. Y. Vol. Infantry

at Bull Run, July 21, 1861. He was the first Rushford man to give up his life in the war.

Romain W. Benjamin—Age 20; enlisted May 13, 1861; discharged August 9, 1861, by order of General Mansfield.

John W. Bishop—Age 21; enlisted July 5, 1861; promoted to corporal; died at Richmond while a prisoner of war.

Wilbur S. Chamberlain—Age 18; enlisted July 5, 1861; discharged September, 1862, at Bakersville, Maryland, by order of Secretary of War.

Timothy C. Charles—Age 23; enlisted May 13, 1861; killed at Bull Run. Mustered out with company.

Philander D. Ellithorpe—Age 20; enlisted May 3, 1861; mustered into United States service at Elmira, New York, May 21, 1861, as private of Capt. C. C. Gardner's company; promoted for meritorious service to corporal, March 1, 1862; to sergeant, March 1, 1863; discharged with company. Subsequent service in 2nd Mt. Rifles.

Burton Freeman—Age 32; enlisted May 13, 1861; mustered as sergeant May 21, 1861, at Elmira; promoted to first sergeant, to second lieutenant, to first lieutenant, to captain, September 26, 1862; was color sergeant at the battle of Bull Run. Mustered out with company.

John R. Heald—Age 18; enlisted May 13, 1861; mustered out with company.

Enoch Hibbard—Age 34; enlisted May 13, 1861; died July 1, 1862, at General Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.

Dennis Hurley—Age 21; enlisted August 31, 1861, at Elmira; mustered out with company. Subsequent service in 13th New York Heavy Artillery.

Thomas R. Merrill—Age 18; enlisted January 16, 1862; mustered out with company. Subsequent service in 13th New York Heavy Artillery.

## War

Winfield Tufts—Age 18; enlisted May 13, 1861; mustered out with company. Subsequent service in 13th New York Heavy Artillery.

George Waters—Age 24; enlisted May 13, 1861; discharged August 9, 1861, by order of General Mansfield.

Charles A. Woodruff—Age 21; enlisted May 13, 1861; promoted sergeant; wounded at Gaines Mills, Va., June 27, 1862; discharged from General Hospital at Philadelphia. (The state records say that Charles A. Woodruff was discharged from the General Hospital, Baltimore, Md., but Mr. John R. Heald says that he knows Mr. Woodruff was in a hospital in Philadelphia, Pa., for he was with him.)

Ira C. Worthington—Age 19; enlisted May 13, 1861; mustered out with company.

Aaron H. Wright—Age 28; enlisted May 13, 1861; mustered out with company. (The best company cook we ever had, ready with the rations wherever we were—on picket, skirmish or battlefield, always "Johnny on the spot."—P. D. Ellithorpe.)

### 64TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

#### COMPANY D.

(Enrolled at Rushford.)

Andrew J. Bannister—Age 22; enlisted September 13, 1861; wounded in action June 1, 1862, at Fair Oaks Virginia; captured July 2, 1863, at Gettysburg; died of disease February 19, 1864, while a prisoner of war at Richmond, Virginia.

Ralph L. Benjamin—Age 18; enlisted August 14, 1862; wounded in action December 13, 1862, at Fredericksburg, Va.; promoted corporal; killed at Chancellorsville, Virginia, May 3, 1863.

Alonzo Brown—Age 23; enlisted September 13, 1861;

## 64th N. Y. Vol. Infantry

wounded in action June 1, 1862, at Fair Oaks, Virginia; died of disease June 12, 1862, at Fifth Street Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.

Henry Chamberlain—Age 24; enlisted Sept. 13, 1861, for three years; discharged Nov. 14, 1862, at Frederick, Md.

Henry B. Colburn—Age 25; enlisted October 15, 1861; mustered in as corporal October 19, 1861; promoted sergeant; wounded in action June 1, 1862, at Fair Oaks, Virginia; discharged for disability February 5, 1863, at Philadelphia, Pa.

Enoch M. W. Cheney—Age 31; mustered in October 5, 1861; killed in action June 1, 1862, at Fair Oaks, Virginia.

William A. Day—Age 23; enlisted August 14, 1862, at Rushford; discharged for disability January 15, 1864, at Elmira, New York.

John L. Daball—Age 20; enlisted October 17, 1861; promoted corporal; promoted sergeant; discharged for disability May 28, 1862, at Columbian College Hospital, Washington, D. C.

Daniel T. Ely—Age 19; enlisted August 14, 1862; killed May 3, 1863, at Chancellorsville, Virginia.

William Ely—Age 21; enlisted August 14, 1862; promoted corporal; wounded in action June 3, 1864, at Cold Harbor, Va.; discharged for gun-shot wound, May 6, 1865 at Rochester, New York.

Isaac W. Evans—Age 27; enlisted September 13, 1861; wounded in action June 1, 1862, at Fair Oaks, Virginia; discharged for disability September 27, 1862, at Elmira.

John H. Farwell—Age 21; enlisted August 14, 1862; wounded and missing in action May 3, 1863, at Chancellorsville, Virginia.

Alonzo S. Gunn—Age 34; enlisted August 14, 1862; killed in action May 3, 1863, at Chancellorsville, Virginia.



## War

Sylvester Hall—Age 19; enlisted September 13, 1861; discharged for disability March 6, 1862, at Camp Fitz Hugh, Fairfax Court House, Virginia; died August 30, 1862.

George W. Hapgood—Age 25; enlisted September 13, 1861; wounded in action June 1, 1862, at Fair Oaks, Va.; discharged for disability September 30, 1862, at U. S. A. Hospital Philadelphia, Pa.

George W. Howe—Age 18; enlisted October 15, 1861; mustered in as a musician November 2, 1861.

William H. Hutchins, Jr.—Age 30; enlisted August 31, 1862; wounded May 12, 1864, at Spottsylvania, Virginia; died June 8, 1864, at Lincoln Hospital, Washington, D. C.

David R. James—Age 18; enlisted October 17, 1861; killed in action May 3, 1863, at Chancellorsville, Virginia.

Clayton G. Jewell—Age 23; enrolled at Elmira to serve three years; mustered in as second lieutenant December 10, 1861; as first lieutenant February 26, 1862; discharged July 6, 1862; enlisted in 13th O. V. C.; killed July 30, 1864.

Philander Kellogg—Age 21; enlisted August 14, 1862; killed May 3, 1863, at Chancellorsville, Virginia.

James H. Kingsbury—Age 22; enlisted September 17, 1861; discharged, because of wounds received in action, June 23, 1864, at De Camp General Hospital, Davids Island, New York.

Abram J. Lyon—Age 21; enlisted August 14, 1862; mustered in as musician; promoted drum major of his regiment; promoted drum major of first division, second army corps; discharged May 30, 1865.

Lyman B. Metcalf—Age 46; enlisted September 4, 1861; discharged at Fortress Monroe November 9, 1862, by reason of disability.

Nathan B. Miller—Age 21; enlisted August 14, 1862; discharged July 3, 1863, at Elmira, New York.

## 64th N. Y. Vol. Infantry

Alfred W. Morrison—Age 24; enlisted September 15, 1861; mustered in September 24, 1861; wounded in action June 1, 1862, at Fair Oaks, Virginia; discharged for disability August 1, 1862, at Elmira.

George Pelton—Age 33; enlisted September 13, 1861; wounded in action December 13, 1862, at Fredericksburg, Virginia; transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps; mustered out Sept. 24, 1864, near Petersburg, Virginia.

Warren B. Persons—Age 22; enlisted August 14, 1862; taken prisoner at Gettysburg, Pa., confined at Belle Isle, Va., until February 1, 1864, then at Andersonville, Ga., where he died July 9, 1864.

John Peters, Jr.—Age 22; enlisted August 14, 1862; wounded May 3, 1863, at Chancellorsville, Va., and July 2, 1863, at Gettysburg, Pa.; transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps September 1, 1863. Further record unknown.

Howard Root—Age 18; enlisted September 13, 1861, at Rushford; died of disease January 16, 1862, at Franklinville, New York.

Dwight Scott—Age 33; enlisted September 13, 1861; discharged for disability June 7, 1862, at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Washington, D. C.

Henry H. Scott—Age 20; enlisted Sept. 16, 1861, for three years; wounded June 1, 1862, at Fair Oaks, Va.; wounded Sept. 16, 1862, at Antietam, Md., and also wounded and captured May 12, 1864, at Spottsylvania, Va.; paroled; discharged April 11, 1865, at Elmira, N. Y.

Nathaniel Seavey—Age 35; enlisted Aug. 14, 1862, for three years; discharged May 30, 1865, near Alexandria, Va. (Company cook.)

Harrison T. Smith—Age 22; enlisted August 14, 1862, at Rushford; mustered in as private; promoted sergeant; wounded at Spottsylvania, Va.; captured August 25, 1864,

## War

at Ream's Station, Va.; paroled; promoted first sergeant, promoted sergeant-major; mustered in as captain Company H March 1, 1865; killed in action March 25, 1865, at Hatcher's Run, Va.

Louis E. Tarbell—Age 25; enlisted October 1, 1861; mustered in as sergeant October 5, 1861; discharged June 9, 1862, at St. Eliza Hospital, Washington, D. C.

William Starkweather—Age 31; enlisted August 14, 1862; wounded in action December 13, 1862, at Fredericksburg, Va.; captured July 2, 1863, at Gettysburg; died October 16, 1863, at Belle Isle, Va., a prisoner of war.

Leonard Van Alst—Age 32; enlisted October 12, 1861; died of disease January 26, 1862, at Camp California, Va.

Charles A. VanDusen—Age 21; enlisted October 1, 1861; wounded in action December 13, 1862, at Fredericksburg, Va.; promoted corporal; killed in action May 12, 1864, near Spottsylvania Court House, Va.

Martin White—Age 24; enlisted October 14, 1861; mustered in as private in Company K, October 19, 1861; transferred to Company D, February 25, 1862; died at Harrison's Landing, Va., September 15, 1862.

Thomas J. White—Age 36; enlisted August 14, 1862; mustered in Oct. 16, 1862; captured October 14, 1863, at Bristoe Station, Va.; taken to Belle Isle, Va., then to Andersonville, Ga., where he died August 9, 1864.

John F. Wier—Age 22; enlisted August 14, 1862; transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps November 15, 1863; discharged October 10, 1865.

Roswell S. Wilmarth—Age 23; enrolled September 13, 1861; promoted sergeant; wounded in action December 13, 1862, at Fredericksburg, Va. (lost right arm); promoted

## 70th N. Y. Vol. Infantry

second lieutenant March 1, 1863; discharged for disability December 15, 1863.

Thomas Russell Wilmarth—Age 23; enlisted August 14, 1862; promoted corporal; killed in action May 3, 1863, at Chancellorsville, Va.

Warren D. Withey—Age 24; enlisted Aug. 14, 1862, for three years; discharged for disability Jan. 12, 1863, at Emory Hospital, Washington, D. C.

George W. Woods—Age 19; enlisted October 12, 1861; discharged for disability July 9, 1862, at Carver Hospital, Washington, D. C.

Henry C. Woods—Age 18; enlisted August 14, 1862; mustered in October 16, 1862; discharged for disability November 14, 1862, at Frederick, Maryland.

Oliver E. Woods—Age 21; enlisted October 17, 1861; discharged for disability April 8, 1862, at Clermont Hospital.

William W. Woodworth—Age 41; enlisted at Elmira for three years; mustered in as first lieutenant December 10, 1861; promoted captain February 26, 1862; died of disease December 28, 1862, near Falmouth, Va.; buried in Rushford.

Lewis Wright—Age 25; enlisted August 14, 1862; discharged for disability February 10, 1863, at rendezvous of distribution, Virginia. (Sun-struck on the march to Gettysburg.)

## 70TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

### COMPANY H.

Elijah Metcalf—Age 22; enlisted at Boston, Mass., to serve three years; mustered in June 21, 1861; transferred to Company H, 71st New York Volunteer Infantry.

## 81ST NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

### COMPANY K.

George W. Cady—Age 33; enlisted at Brooklyn, N. Y.;

## War

mustered in as private April 7, 1865; mustered out with company August 31, 1865, at Fortress Monroe, Va.

### 83RD NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY (9th New York Militia.)

#### COMPANY F.

John DuBell—Age 21; enlisted May 27, 1861, at New York City; discharged for disability July 2, 1861, at Camp Cameron, Washington, D. C.

### 85TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

#### COMPANY F.

\*Charles H. Himes—Age 26; enlisted October 1, 1861, at Black Creek, N. Y.; mustered in as private October 16, 1861; wounded in action May 31, 1862, at Fair Oaks, Va.; promoted sergeant August 5, 1862; returned to ranks, re-enlisted as veteran and promoted sergeant; captured in action April 20, 1864, at Plymouth, N. C.; paroled; mustered out with company June 27, 1865, at New Berne, N. C.

\*Harvey McElheney—Age 24; enlisted September 2, 1861, at Black Creek, N. Y.; mustered in as corporal September 7, 1861; returned to ranks; re-enlisted as veteran January 1, 1864; captured in action at Plymouth, N. C., April 20, 1864; confined six months at Andersonville, Ga., and four months at Florence, S. C.; re-captured by Union forces at Wilmington, N. C.; mustered out with company June 27, 1865, at New Berne, N. C.

\*John A. O'Connor—Age 35; enlisted August 26, 1861, at Black Creek, N. Y.; discharged for disability November 11, 1862, at New York City.

#### COMPANY —.

James Patterson—Enlisted 1861; died at Andersonville, 1864.



## 86TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

### COMPANY D.

\*Alamanzo W. Litchard—Aged 19; enlisted August 29, 1861, at Hornellsville; discharged for disability December 9, 1862, at Alexandria, Va.

\*Alexander L. Litchard—Aged 19; enlisted August 29, 1861, at Hornellsville; discharged for disability November 13, 1862, at Washington, D. C.

## 104TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

### COMPANY A.

Thomas D. Bradford—Enlisted Sept. 30, 1861, as musician, for three years; discharged.

## 105TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

### COMPANY D.

Howard P. Lafferty—Age 34; enlisted December 9, 1861; discharged July 4, 1862, from General Hospital at Falls Church, Va., on surgeon's certificate of disability.

## 120TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

### COMPANY D.

Charles Pettit—Age 17; enlisted September 3, 1864; prisoner of war at Libby and Pemberton, Richmond, Va.; discharged June 2, 1865.

Henry Pettit—Age 19; enlisted September 3, 1864; discharged June 2, 1865.

## 149TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

### COMPANY E.

James Augustus Hitchcock—Age 17; enlisted April 11, 1865, for one year; discharged May 3, 1865, at Elmira, N. Y.

## War

### 189TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

#### COMPANY B.

Lyman J. Cole—Age 16; enlisted at Dunkirk September 20, 1864; mustered out at Arlington Heights; discharged May 30, 1865.

#### COMPANY F.

George S. Marsh—Age 18; enlisted October 2, 1864; discharged May 30, 1865, near Washington, D. C.

### SECOND NEW YORK MOUNTED RIFLES

#### COMPANY B.

(Mustered out at Petersburg, Va., August 10, 1865.)

Watson W. Bush—Age 22; enrolled January 12, 1864, at Buffalo, N. Y.; commissioned first lieutenant March 29, 1864; taken prisoner September 30, 1864, at Pegram's Farm, Va.; paroled from Libby; exchanged March 10, 1865; commissioned captain July 31, 1865, vice Runyan, promoted; mustered out with company.

John Cole—Age 18; enlisted at Rushford December 23, 1863; sick in hospital at mustering out of company; died in hospital.

George Franklin Durkee—Age 20; enlisted December 15, 1863; mustered out with company.

Philander D. Ellithorpe—Enlisted January 4, 1864, at Gainesville, N. Y.; mustered into U. S. service as sergeant of Capt. Henry Runyan's company, Col. John Fisk commanding; severely wounded at Petersburg, Va., June 17, 1864; discharged July 20, 1865, from U. S. A. General Hospital, Chester, Pa., by reason of loss of arm by wound received in action and the close of the war.

## 2nd N. Y. Mounted Rifles

Henry Elmer—Age 35; enlisted December 25, 1863; mustered out with company.

Leroy C. Elv—Age 18; enlisted December 19, 1863; transferred to Company G, 19th Veteran Reserve Corps, May 19, 1865, from which discharged September 5, 1865, at Buffalo, N. Y.

George S. Hackett—Age 19; enlisted December 22 1863; mustered out with detachment June 18, 1865, in Whitehall Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.

George W. Hapgood—Age 23; enlisted December 23, 1863; appointed sergeant; wounded July 30, 1864, in front of Petersburg; mustered out with company.

Abram A. Howell—Age 40; enlisted December 12 1863; appointed bugler; mustered out with company.

Lucian L. Lewis—Age 18; enlisted December 16, 1863; appointed corporal May 1, 1865; sergeant July 20, 1865; mustered out with company.

Lafayette Meade—Age 18; enlisted December 14, 1863; wounded June 18, 1864, in front of Petersburg, Va.; died of wounds July 17, 1864, at Emory Hospital, Washington, D. C.

Lyman Metcalf—Age 48; enlisted in Rushford, Dec. 25, 1863; discharged August 9, 1865, at Washington, D. C.

\*John A. O'Conner—Age 35; enlisted December 18, 1863, at New Hudson, N. Y.; mustered in as corporal January 5, 1864; transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps April 5, 1865, from which mustered out July 21, 1865, at Rochester, N. Y.

DeWitt C. Pelton—Age 29; enlisted December 22, 1863; appointed corporal; killed on picket May 14, 1865.

Riley W. Pettit—Age 20; enlisted January 4, 1864; died of disease September, 1864, at Field Hospital, City Point, Va.

## War

Chauncey Williams—Age 28; enrolled December 24, 1863; appointed farrier; mustered out with company.

### 130TH VOLUNTEERS or FIRST NEW YORK DRAGOONS

(Mustered out June 30, 1865, at Clouds Mills, Va.)

#### COMPANY B.

John S. Dewey—Age 37; enlisted August 30, 1864; mustered out with company.

#### COMPANY C.

Elijah Bishop—Age 22; enlisted August 30, 1864; mustered out June 29, 1865, at Jarvis U. S. Army Hospital at Baltimore, Md.

Julius R. Ford—Age 34; enlisted August 30, 1864; mustered out with company.

Nathan E. Heald—Age 26; enlisted August 30, 1864; mustered out with company.

Anson T. Lawton—Age 33; enlisted September 2, 1864; mustered out with company.

Dwight Scott—Age 37; enlisted September 3, 1864; mustered out with company.

Velorus Swift—Age 24; enlisted August 19, 1864; mustered out with company.

Warren D. Withey—Age 26; enlisted August 30, 1864; mustered out with company.

#### COMPANY D.

James K. Hitchcock—Age 42; enlisted August 30, 1864; mustered out with company.

#### COMPANY E.

Alonzo D. Abrams—Age 22; enlisted Aug. 16, 1864, for one year; discharged June 30, 1865, at Clouds Mills, Va. (Substitute for Orrin T. Higgins.)

## 130th N. Y. Volunteers

Amba H. Alderman—Age 42; enlisted September 3, 1864, at Centerville, N. Y.; mustered out with company.

Chauncey L. Alderman—Age 30; enlisted at Centerville September 13, 1864; mustered out with company.

Lyman G. Beecher—Age 28; enlisted at Rushford August 2, 1864; mustered out with company. •

Edwin A. Burr—Age 22; enlisted August 30, 1864, at Rushford; mustered out with company.

James Demcey—Age 30; enlisted Aug. 30, 1864, for one year; discharged June 30, 1865, at Clouds Mills, Va.

Hosea B. Persons—Age 36; enlisted September 3, 1864; discharged June 8, 1865, because of illness in his family.

Alvin C. Taylor—Age 33; enlisted Sept. 2, 1864, for one year; discharged June 30, 1865, at Clouds Mills, Va.

Plin A. Taylor—Age 29; enlisted September 6, 1864, at Elmira, N. Y.; mustered out with company.

Cyrus Westcott—Age 21; enlisted September 3, 1864, at Centerville; wounded in the hand at the battle of Five Forks, April 1, 1865; discharged at Mower U. S. Army General Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa., June 14, 1865.

### COMPANY F.

\*Byron Vaname—Age 22; enlisted August 9, 1862, at Centerville, N. Y.; mustered out with company.

### COMPANY H.

William Babbitt—Age 36; enlisted September 3, 1864; never joined company.

Otis White—Age 30; enlisted August 30, 1864, at Rushford; mustered out with company.

### COMPANY K.

Philetus Gratton—Age 40; enlisted September 2, 1864 at Rushford for one year; wounded in action at Liberty



## War

Mills, December 22, 1864; discharged May 17, 1865, at U. S. General Hospital, York, Pa.

### 5TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER CAVALRY

#### COMPANY E.

\*Leonard Adams—Age 36; enlisted August 26, 1861, at Black Creek, N. Y.; discharged on surgeon's certificate of disability because of injuries received in a railroad wreck when returning to seat of war with enlisted men; discharged September, 1862.

Charles W. Beardsley—Age 25; enlisted August 25, 1861; discharged March 31, 1862, by order of General McClellan; re-enlisted August 23, 1864 as saddler; discharged June 13, 1865.

\*Roswell N. Byington—Age 21; enlisted August 29, 1861, at Farmersville, N. Y.; re-enlisted December 31, 1863; wounded in the leg at Cold Harbor, Va.; discharged July 19, 1865, at Winchester, Va.

James H. Chase—Age 18; enlisted August 28, 1861, at Rushford to serve three years; mustered in as bugler August 31, 1861; re-enlisted as private January 1, 1864; wounded, no date; transferred March 1, 1865 to Company G, 14th Veteran Reserve Corps, from which discharged as corporal August 19, 1865, at Washington, D. C.

Aaron Eaton—Age 22; enlisted August 24, 1861; quartermaster sergeant; re-enlisted January 1, 1864; mustered out with company July 19, 1865, at Winchester, Va.

William A. Eaton—Age —; enlisted August 28, 1861; re-enlisted January 1, 1864; taken prisoner; mustered out June 24, 1865, at New York City.

Adelbert E. Gould—Age 16; enlisted August 28, 1861; appointed commissary sergeant; discharged as private October 22, 1864, by order of General Torbert.



Sumner E. Kilmer

## War

Sumner E. Kilmer—Age 18; enlisted at Rushford August 26, 1861; discharged December 31, 1863, by reason of re-enlistment as veteran volunteer at Stevensburg, Va.; finally discharged July 19, 1865, at Winchester, Va., by reason of special order 78, Headquarters of Army of Shenandoah, July 11, 1865.

Charles McMullen—Age 34; enlisted August 30, 1861; appointed wagoner; re-enlisted January 1, 1864; mustered out with company July 19, 1865, at Winchester, Va.

John S. Trowbridge—Age 24; enlisted August 28, 1861; mustered as sergeant August 31, 1861; wounded at Hanover, Pa., June 30, 1863; died July 6, 1863, at Hanover; sent home and buried in Pine Grove Cemetery, Hume, N. Y.

Sylvester T. Upgrove—Age 21; enlisted August 30, 1861; appointed corporal; re-enlisted as corporal February 22, 1864; promoted sergeant; wounded twice; taken prisoner October 6, 1864; escaped October 9, 1864, during fight at Tom's Brook; mustered out with company July 19, 1865, at Winchester, Va.

Leonard M. Worthington—Age 18; enlisted August 28, 1861; appointed teamster; re-enlisted as private February 6, 1864; captured June 29, 1864, at Ream's Station, Va.; paroled April 1, 1865; mustered out June 24, 1865, at New York City.

## 10TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER CAVALRY

### COMPANY L.

William Beaumont—Age 27; enlisted at Buffalo September 15, 1862; orderly for Lieut. Tucker on General Smith's staff; mustered out at Clouds Mills, Va., July 19, 1865.

## 24TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER CAVALRY

### COMPANY F.

\*Everett S. Thompson—Enlisted December 19, 1863; mustered in U. S. service January, 1864; discharged May, 1865. Prior service in 26th New York Infantry.

## 1ST NEW YORK VETERAN CAVALRY

### COMPANY F.

Lyman Barber—Age 34; enlisted September 3, 1864; discharged June 8, 1865, at Camp Piatt, W. Va.

## 5TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER HEAVY ARTILLERY

### COMPANY A.

Charles D. Jenison—Age 18; enlisted January 4, 1864, at Friendship; mustered in January 4, 1864; captured April 6, 1865, at Keves Ford, Va.; paroled; mustered out with company, July 19, 1865, at Harper's Ferry, Va.

### COMPANY D.

John Small—Age 38; enlisted December 19, 1863; discharged July 19, 1865.

## 8TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER HEAVY ARTILLERY

### COMPANY I.

Albert K. Damon—Age 23; enlisted January 4, 1864, at Caledonia to serve three years; mustered in January 5, 1864; wounded in front of Petersburg, Va.; died of disease July 25, 1864, in New York Harbor.

## War

### COMPANY H.

George B. Walker—Age 19; enlisted December 28, 1863, at Elma; died in Libby prison, Richmond, Va., on June 8, 1864, of wounds received June 3, 1864 at Cold Harbor, Va.

## 9TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER HEAVY ARTILLERY

### COMPANY E.

\*Alamanzo W. Litchard—Age 23; enlisted September 6, 1864, at Conesus; mustered out June 16, 1864, at Philadelphia, Pa. Prior service in 86th New York Infantry.

## 13TH NEW YORK HEAVY ARTILLERY

### COMPANY D.

Chester Beecher—Age 20; enlisted July 8, 1863; mustered in as corporal August 4, 1863; transferred to Company L, Sixth New York Artillery, June 18, 1865, from which mustered out; discharged September 2, 1865.

Orange Cole—Age 38; enlisted September 6, 1864; discharged June 24, 1865, at Norfolk, Va.

Silas A. Gilley—Age 18; enlisted July 11, 1863; mustered in as private August 4, 1863; promoted corporal; transferred June 18, 1865, to Company L, Sixth New York Artillery, from which mustered out; discharged August 24, 1865.

James Healey—Enlisted July 11, 1863 for three years; discharged Aug. 24, 1865.

Charles J. Hurlburt—Enlisted July 15, 1863; died at Portsmouth, Va., March 11, 1864.



## 14th N. Y. Heavy Artillery

Dennis Hurley—Enlisted June 22, 1863, at Cuba, N. Y.; corporal; transferred to Company L, 6th New York Artillery, June 18, 1865; mustered out Aug. 24, 1865. Prior service in 27th New York Infantry.

Benjamin Kingsbury—Age 36; enlisted July 13, 1863, at Rushford; transferred to Company L, Sixth New York Volunteer Heavy Artillery, July 18, 1865; mustered out August 24, 1865, at Washington, D. C.

Otis Kingsbury—Age 23; enlisted June 11, 1863; mustered in as first sergeant August 4, 1863; promoted second lieutenant September 14, 1864; discharged June 17, 1865. Prior service in 23rd New York Company B.

Thomas R. Merrill—Enlisted June 23, 1863, at Rushford; private Company D and first sergeant Company E; mustered out July 18, 1865, at Norfolk, Va.

Charles P. Tufts—Age 18; enlisted June 29, 1863; mustered in as corporal August 4, 1863; promoted sergeant; transferred to Company L, 6th New York Artillery, June 18, 1865, from which mustered out; discharged September 2, 1865.

Winfield Tufts—Enlisted June 29, 1863, at Rushford; sergeant; transferred to Company L, 6th New York Artillery, June 18, 1865; mustered out August 24, 1865.

### COMPANY F.

Ira Petty—Age 44; enlisted September 3, 1864, at Rushford; died of disease January 6, 1865, at Gosport, Va.

Eber Lafferty—Age 38; enlisted September 3, 1864; transferred to D; discharged at Norfolk, Va., May 24, 1865.

## 14TH NEW YORK HEAVY ARTILLERY

### COMPANY K.

Adelbert Hall—Age 18; enlisted December 16, 1863,

## War

at Leyden; wounded June 17, 1864; mustered out May 12, 1865, at Mower Hospital, Philadelphia.

### 50TH NEW YORK ENGINEERS' BRIGADE BAND

Albert Bishop—Age 25; enlisted Oct. 9, 1862, as musician, Co. D, 50th N. Y. Engineers; transferred to Brigade Band July 1, 1863; discharged June 8, 1865, at camp near Washington, D. C.

Isaac Bowen Gordon—Age 30; enlisted Oct. 9, 1862, for three years, Co. E, 50th N. Y. Engineers; appointed musician; transferred to Brigade Band July 1, 1863; discharged June 8, 1865, at camp near Washington, D. C.

### REGIMENTS UNKNOWN

Henry Boardman—Buried in Rushford.

J. Wiley Woods—Enlisted from Rushford.

### 11TH PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

#### COMPANY B.

(The three following brothers were Englishmen who had not been naturalized so could not have been drafted.)

George Tapp—Age 25; enlisted April, 1861, at Lock Haven for three months; re-enlisted for three years or until close of war; made orderly sergeant; promoted second lieutenant; shot in both arms at first Battle of Bull Run; after returning from hospital was made first lieutenant; wounded in both thighs at Battle of Gettysburg; officer of the guard at the Long Bridge the night Lincoln was shot; discharged at close of war.

## 42nd Regiment, Penna. Reserve

James Tapp—Age 30; enlisted at Elmira, N. Y., in September, 1861; discharged June 3, 1863, at Washington D. C., for disability; re-enlisted Co. F, 141st N. Y. Inf.; marched "from Atlanta to the Sea;" promoted to wagon master of twenty-four wagons; taken prisoner twenty-two miles from Goldsboro, N. C., while foraging for his company; exchanged; discharged at close of war.

William Henry Tapp—Age 19; enlisted August 16, 1861; taken prisoner August 28, 1862; exchanged December 13, 1862; transferred to Battery L, Second U. S. Artillery, in February, 1864; discharged at Cape Disappointment, Washington Territory, February 9, 1867, having served five years, six months and seven days.

## 42ND REGIMENT, 1ST RIFLES, PENNSYLVANIA RESERVE VOLUNTEER CORPS (BUCKTAILS)

### COMPANY I.

William A. Lafferty—Age 18; enlisted at Bradford, Pa., August 11, 1861; wounded twice and taken prisoner at Fair Oaks, Va.; discharged August 13, 1864, at Harrisburg, Pa., at expiration of service. (Height, five feet, six and one-half inches; light complexion; blue eyes; brown hair; occupation, laborer.)

Philip G. Ellithorpe—Age 18; enlisted at Smethport, Pa., May 30, 1861; wounded by gun shot in the knee at the Battle of Gettysburg (Peach Orchard), July 2, 1863; leg amputated three times; died at Gettysburg, October 3, 1863; buried at Rushford.

## War

### 199TH PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

#### COMPANY H.

William G. Lafferty—Age 44; enrolled September 3, 1864; discharged June 28, 1865, at Richmond, Va.

### 21ST PENNSYLVANIA CAVALRY

#### COMPANY E.

Edward W. Beecher—Age 23; first sergeant; enlisted Jan. 15, 1864; discharged July 8, 1865, at Lynchburg, Va.

### 32ND REGIMENT, UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS

\*Corydon C. Mason—Age 48; assistant surgeon; enrolled February 26, 1864, having been appointed by Secretary of War; joined for duty March 5, 1864. When Sherman evacuated Charleston, S. C., to go north, Dr. Mason picked two dandelions growing in one of the principal streets of the city. Discharged August 22, 1865.

### 2ND OHIO BATTERY—LIGHT ARTILLERY

\*Warren Clark was enrolled at age of 23, as a private, on the 12th day of August, 1862, at Conneaut, Ohio, by T. J. Carlin, and was mustered into U. S. service on the 16th day of September, 1862, at Columbus, Ohio, by Captain Dodd, and was discharged February 7, 1863, on surgeon's certificate of disability.

## 8TH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER CAVALRY

### COMPANY L.

Charles Gordon—Age 21; enlisted October 4, 1864, at Marengo, Ill.; mustered into U. S. service as a recruit for one year. Height, 5 ft. 11 in.; hair, brown; eyes, gray; complexion, light; occupation, farmer; native, New York. Mustered out July 17, 1865. Residence at date of enlistment, Spring, Boone County, Illinois.

### 3RD WISCONSIN BATTERY—LIGHT ARTILLERY

Titus B. Chapin—Age 27; enrolled September 16, 1861, at Almond, Wis., for the term of three years; mustered into service of U. S. October 10, 1861, at Racine, Wis.; taken prisoner September 20, 1863 (Chickamauga); died of seorbutus January 7, 1864, at Andersonville, Ga.; cemetery, Danville, Va.

### NAVY

Daniel D. Persons—Age 43; landsman No. 151, on U. S. Steamer Paw-Paw; enlisted Sept. 3, 1864; discharged June 28, 1865.

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Extract from a letter written by William Seiver of Angelica, late of Co. I, 27th Regiment, N. Y. V.

"My impression is that Eugene Ferrin of West Almond, N. Y., was the first Allegany soldier who was killed in the Civil War. Our regiment had but just got onto the fighting ground of Bull Run under command of Col. Henry W. Slocum (later Major General Slocum) when directly in our front were two Rebel regiments; the first volley they fired Eugene Ferrin was struck in the forehead, standing at my



## War

side. If Babbitt was killed in the morning, before the battle of Bull Run I did not learn of it."

Extract from a letter written by Philander D. Ellithorpe of Buffalo, late of Co. I, 27th Regiment, N. Y. V.:

"I have no recollection of Ferrin but I do know when and where Albert Babbitt was killed; I saw him receive the second shot, after he was down; it was down in the valley, near the house and not far from where Col. Slocum was wounded. The Eighth Georgia regiment was on the skirmish line down the valley and there were two other regiments of Rebs in ambush; we did not see them until they opened fire upon us."

## THE CELEBRATION IN RUSHFORD OF THE TAKING OF RICHMOND

H. J. W. G.

THE news came that Richmond had been taken. Then suddenly there was a relaxation of the tension of four years. Men were beside themselves. They must celebrate. Bonfires were built at intervals along Main Street, but the greatest one of all was in front of the Globe Hotel from which flowed spirits that gave enthusiasm to the occasion. It was night and the dark moving figures seemed like spectres against the monstrous fire.

"Uncle Sam. Persons," full of joy, began to dance. He knew that it is written, "There is a time to dance," and he thought if there ever was a time this was it. When a certain man whose political ideas were not in accord with those of the celebrants was passing by, he was lifted wagon box and all onto the porch of the hotel. After a time he was allowed to pursue his journey. The next day he

## Celebration of Taking of Richmond

sought legal advice, only to be told that he had no cause for complaint, that he had been greatly honored by his compatriots. A man highly esteemed in the community and owner of varied interests was in a high state of patriotic enthusiasm, adding much zest to the celebration. One who belonged to the professions and was respected by all, was in a new role that night, a bearer of liquid hilarity which he handed out in a dipper from a ten-quart pail.

The fire was replenished, the flames leaped higher and with them rose the spirits of the celebrants. The sign-post with its square top, saying from its four sides "Globe Hotel" succumbed to the occasion and helped light the fires of liberty. The firewater flowed on. The crowd was jubilant. A minister of the gospel whose war speeches had helped to awaken the slumbering fires of patriotism, having strolled to the Globe as an onlooker, soon found himself doused with the fiery liquid which was causing so much exhilaration. A genial, warm-hearted fellow, one of the business men of the town, with a lighted cigar in his mouth was carrying a half-emptied keg of powder. Meeting a good doctor of the place, he said, "You take the powder; you're not smoking." Upon being accused of being a church member, he pointed to the bottle in his pocket, saying, "My religion is in here tonight." For a few hours pandemonium reigned, and the wonder is that no one was injured.

When a substantial citizen returned home, his daughter-in-law said to him, "Why didn't you bring Jonathan?" "I had all I could do to get home myself," was the reply. Two men (they lived on Upper Street) went home that night in their right minds.

So ended the celebration of the taking of Richmond, the end of a long and bloody struggle for the preservation of the Union and the freedom of the slaves.

X  
MUSIC  
HISTORY OF MUSIC

Sophia Benjamin Taylor

THE history of music would not be complete without a few words concerning the ministry of music. Music is a unifying force in family life, an inspiration for good in social life and the power of God in church life. The popular thing for the young people of fifty years ago was to "get together" and have a "sing."

For lack of data the subject will be developed in a general way. It is stated in the records of the Baptist Church that in June, 1821, Oliver Butterfield was chosen standing chorister. The few people remaining to tell the story say that among the early worthies who pitched the tunes and led the singing were Daniel Woods, Levi Benjamin, Deacon Delano, the McCalls and the Beechers. The hymns were evangelistic in character and were sung more for the gospel they taught than for the music in them. The tuning fork helped to get the proper key. The human voice was the only channel of expression. Avery Washburn came to town in 1840 and was soon made chorister of the Methodist Episcopal choir; he also taught singing school and was interested in the music until he left town in 1865. Milton Woods was chosen to fill the vacancy. His genial nature and sweet voice made him popular as leader and instructor. The Methodist choir has been served by him or some other Woods, with one short break, to the present time.

In the early forties musical instruments began to be used in church service, the despised fiddle being the first, de-

## History of Music \*

spised, because of its association with the dance. Some of the Christian fathers objected strongly to its use. However, as usual, the singers liked to have their own way, and in the Baptist Church, Justin Delano played the violin accompanied by his brother Chester on the bass viol. In a few years an instrument called the seraphim was installed to swell the volume. Mrs. Daniel Leavens was the first player. The instrument was manufactured in a shop at East Rushford where Horatio R. Palmer was an apprentice. All these years the candlesticks had to be kept in shining order, both for singing school and church meetings, for if anyone expected to see well he must have a candle. If the people of those early days were to speak of these things, they would tell of the old "Boston Academy" (the singing book used) with its buckwheat notes and fugue tunes. These were the days when Norman Beecher led the Presbyterian people in the service song, when "Auntie" Goff and Aunt Maria Benjamin delighted all listeners with their effective alto voices.

The art reached its climax in the fifties when Rushford Academy had a musical department in the Academy of Music (the old Methodist Church) where were three pianos in as many rooms on the first floor, and a vocal class taught two evenings a week during the school year in an assembly room on the second floor. Prof. J. Vickery was teacher for a time; when he left town H. R. Palmer took up the work with great vigor. He was leader in the Baptist choir, and was also instrumental in organizing a cornet band. In 1859 he brought out the "Cantata of Queen Esther," taking the part of king himself. Bowen Gordon took the part of Mordecai; Asa Hardy, Haman; and Minerva Simpson, Queen Esther. It was a great success.

Mr. Palmer, by his kindly disposition, endeared himself

## Music

to all his pupils. In 1861-2 he attended Bassino's Normal Music School at Geneseo. A year or two later he went out from Rushford to win for himself a name and a place among the most brilliant and successful composers of music and among the best equipped teachers in the country. His "Yield not to Temptation" which he sent back in leaflet form to the Sunday Schools has been translated into several languages. He became an eminent chorus leader, serving annually at several Chautauquas. During his last visit at Rushford when speaking of his love for the town, he said for what he had accomplished in the world, he was indebted to Elder Simpson and other friends in Rushford who stimulated him and made him believe in possibilities for himself.

During these years, little by little, the opposition to musical instruments in the Methodist Church was overcome. The first instrument, after an occasional violin, was a little melodeon that one of the brethren loaned them. Finally Uncle William Gordon\* signed the first ten dollars toward purchasing a larger instrument, provided they would not play between the verses.

After Mr. Palmer's departure, Asa Hardy took the leadership of the Baptist choir, continuing in that position nearly twenty-five years. He loved music. Since his home-going Stephen Wilmot, Dean Gordon and Robert Warren, the present incumbent, have led in sacred song.

Martha (Hardy) Claus, Julia Thompson, Alice (Lathrop) Holden, Alice (Williams) Brecht, Lena Warren and others have kept alive the love and demand for good instrumental music. The singers, the band and the orchestra of

\*It was at the solicitation of his granddaughter, Ellen E. Gordon, who was inspired by her uncle, Avery Washburn, to ask him for a contribution.



## The Rushford Band

Home Coming Week, August 16, 22, 1908, were witnesses of what has been and is still being done.

### THE RUSHFORD BAND

SOMETIME away back in the thirties, over seventy years ago, the first blast of Rushford's pioneer brass band rolled up the log-fenced streets, down the corduroy avenues, and went singing through the original forests, till echoed back by the grand old sentinel hills. It was truly a gala day. Almost all the population of the striving, thriving hamlet were in the streets and dooryards. Rushford had a brass band, bringing joy and pride to every loyal heart, and it has hardly been without one since. Who were those precious fellows who organized so much exultant harmony? Well, the leader was Ransom Dennison, one of the most consummate clarinet players ever heard in grand old Allegheny. Men and women who remember him say no other player on that instrument, before or since, has ever tingled their nerves, ravished their ears and dissolved their souls as did he. The members of his band so far as ascertained were Archibald Adams, Harry Howe, James Jewell, Isaac Noble, William Woodworth, Smith W. Tuller, Ely Gordon, J. B. Gordon, E. P. Lyon and Andrew Kimball.

After a few years Mr. Dennison, who did not live in Rushford, was succeeded by Archibald Adams, who was the leader of what may be called the second band. It was composed of most of the members of the first band, to which were added Justin Palmer, a man of exquisite ear and taste, father of H. R. Palmer, Cyrus Gordon, Justin Delano, Cyrus Maxwell, Jedediah and Riley Hubbard, Lucius C. Kimball,

NOTE—Arranged by S. E. Kilmer and A. J. Lyon from "The Rushford Band" with omissions and additions.

## Music

Arthur Hardy and Alfred Wier. In 1844 the band rode to Ellicottville in a hayrack to a big political meeting to hear Millard Fillmore speak. There were sixteen members and they easily took first position in competition with a half dozen other bands. Mr. Johnson, who was their teacher for a short time, led them upon that occasion.

Rushford was without a band about ten years. In 1857 H. R. Palmer organized what was called Palmer's Band. The first band wagon was bought when H. R. Palmer was leader and Palmer's Rushford Band was printed in large letters on each side. The original members of Palmer's Band were H. R. Palmer, Barnes Blanchard, Asa Hardy, DeWitt McDonald, Arthur Hardy, Horace Howe, Milton Woods, Bowen Gordon, George Howe and A. J. Lyon.

Horace Howe took H. R. Palmer's place as leader of the band. Under the training of E. Prior of Corning the music increased in volume and expression.

About 1860 or '61 Asa Hardy, who had developed surprising mastery of the E flat or leading horn, became the leader and gave to the Rushford Band a standing that was easily at the head of the band organizations in Allegany and nearby counties. Just who of the old members remained it is impossible to state for the nature of all bands is a continual change. The wonder is that an efficient organization was ever maintained as it has been for so many years. Asa Hardy was leader and instructor of the band about twenty-five years. The members of his band for many years were Barnes Blanchard, Charles Howe, S. A. Hardy, D. C. McDonald, John Quinton, J. F. Wier, Lewis Ely, Clarence Hardy, Irving Hardy, M. M. Tarbell, Albert Bishop and A. J. Lyon. The veteran drummer, A. J. Lyon, still remains on duty. During the skating-rink craze in 1884 a few of the band under the leadership of Charles Howe

## The Rushford Band

furnished music at the rink in the basement of W. W. Merrill's hardware store.

In 1885 a new organization was perfected with the personnel of George Parker, W. F. Wells, H. A. Holden, C. C. Colburn, John Quinton, H. E. Tarbell, W. P. Peck, Burton Hardy, Grant Woods, Homer Adams, M. M. Tarbell, A. J. Lyon, S. A. Hardy and W. F. Benjamin. Asa Hardy was then in poor health and died the following year. W. F. Benjamin, who had been in the band since 1876, taking Barnes Blanchard's place, was chosen leader, a position he has held to the present time (1908), excepting a few years when William Jenks was leader. Prof. L. F. Willey of Nunda was engaged as instructor and under his excellent training the band reached its highest proficiency.

The following were the members after ten years had passed: Otis White, William Jenks, Merl Jenks, W. G. Thomas, W. H. Woods, Royce Kyes, Talcott Brooks, Clarence Thomas, W. W. Thomas, William Ingleby, Jr., A. J. Lyon, D. W. Woods and W. F. Benjamin. The band paid out in ten years one thousand dollars for instruments, new uniforms, a band wagon, services of instructor, music, etc. Some of the money was earned by playing at picnics, fairs and celebrations, and some of it was raised by having ice-cream festivals. Public-spirited citizens contributed means to build the handsome pagoda on the Academy lawn. It is one of the finest in Western New York. The uniforms of the Rushford Cornet Band was West Point cadet, viz., grey trimmed with black. They had a fine band wagon drawn by two well-matched teams; on the heads of the horses were plumes, the best that money could buy.

Rushford has always been noted for its good drummers. A. J. Lyon played the small drum and Miles Tarbell, whose time was like clockwork, played the bass drum. A.

## Music

J. Lyon has been a member of the band over fifty years and is one of three original members of Palmer's Band now living; the other two are DeWitt C. McDonald and Bowen Gordon. Arthur Hardv always sat in the band wagon with one foot out ready to jump if anything happened. Bowen Gordon always took time to spit when playing, and as he is rather moderate the band would often play one strain before Bowen was ready. Charles Howe was an artist on the B flat cornet, but he always had a girl on the string and was not always in his place when the band was ready to play. After waiting a long time and blowing several calls Charles would turn up very deliberately. Like the fellow that was going to be hung, he knew they could not do anything till he got there. He was at one time the only single man in the band. One very cold day the band started for Arcade to hold a concert. Henry Hyde was riding with his wife in a cutter behind the band; suddenly one of the band said "Henry Hyde is freezing." His wife had not realized his condition. He was helpless, but by heroic treatment they succeeded in restoring him. They failed, however, to fill the bill at Arcade.

The Rushford Band had an established rule not to allow any member to indulge in anything while on duty that was detrimental to the interests or the morals of the band. Their reputation was such that their services were in demand in all parts of this county as well as in adjoining ones.

Music is as old as man and good music is one of the signs of high civilization. It is to the credit of any community to be noted for musical attainments. The band has helped to educate the young, and has been a delight and a solace to all classes.

## Tune, My Maryland

We've honored here with praises high,  
The deeds of men in days gone by,  
Who left a noble heritage  
That grows with each succeeding age;  
Withhold not praise for place they won,  
Give honor due to every one,  
High on that roll of worthies stand  
The names of Rushford's Cornet Band.

O, have you heard the Rushford Band  
Render our national anthem grand?  
They raise the patriots' spirits high  
With memories that never die;  
In sweetest strains they speak to me  
Of home and friends and liberty,  
And sound them still throughout the land,  
O, Rushford Band! O, Rushford Band!

A pebble dropped into the sea,  
Its waves roll through immensity,  
The notes sent forth into the sky  
They echo still and never die.  
O, let me hear those strains once more,  
That charmed the hearts in days of yore.  
And listening ear it doth command  
The music of the Rushford Band.

When vict'ry and peace our arms had crowned  
How swiftly sped the joyful sound!



## Music

The crowds poured in from miles around  
And booming cannon shook the ground;  
O, then we heard the oft demand,  
“Bring out the Band,” “Bring out the Band!”  
They struck the notes of Freedom’s land  
Were patriots all, that Rushford Band.

Election times when candidate  
Told people how he’d save the State,  
The school-terms close when graduate—  
Essays we heard, heard youths orate  
Occasions oft throughout the year,  
When music heightened festive cheer,  
How welcome then, to have at hand  
The service of the cornet band!

Passed fifty years, again we meet  
With loving words each other greet;  
But some have gone beyond the skies  
When heavenly anthems joyful rise;  
Play sweetly soft for them once more  
Who rise in memory o’er and o’er,  
They wait to extend the welcome hand,  
O, glorious band! celestial band!

## XI OUR BELLS

H. J. W. G.

**A**BOUT seventy years ago the inhabitants of Rushford desired a bell, so a subscription paper was circulated and a bell was purchased. After some discussion as to the most suitable place, it was hung in the belfry of the Baptist Church. The following lines were composed at the time:

“The Baptist Church has got a bell,  
And E. L. Davis rings it,  
Elder Miner reads the hymn,  
And Eliab Benjamin sings it.”

Tradition says that a hundred silver dollars put into the molten mass out of which the bell was cast, give it its sweet tone. In the first years it was rung at five for apprentices to rise, at nine for school, at twelve for nooning, and at nine at night for apprentices to cease work.

Every Lord's Day it seems to say “Come worship God ” and each Thursday evening it calls to the house of prayer. Sometimes in the night, awakened by its agitated tones people have looked out of the window to see a strange light and to hear the excited cry, “Fire, fire!” It is a patriotic bell. At midnight ushering in the ever glorious Fourth, it peals out liberty, liberty, until the people of the town longing for “a little more slumber, a little more sleep,” wonder if it will never cease. It is not a partisan bell for whether the political victory celebrated be Republican or Democratic, the jubilant tones of the bell mingle with the shouting and the sound of cannon. But how fearful it was in days gone by to hear ten rapid strokes of the bell, then three or four

## Our Bells

moderate ones, followed by the solemn striking of the age by tens! Death was in the midst.

The question of purchasing a town clock came up. There was a division of opinion as to the wisdom of purchasing one. Some said, "Let us buy a town clock," others said, "We need fire engines." The town clock people won. When the first Globe Hotel caught fire, the "Antis" cried out, "Bring on your town clock and put out the fire." On one occasion the faithful bell failed. The bridal party was ready, waiting for the hour of twelve to strike before entering the church, and it did not strike. The next week the village paper came out with: "The town clock should be ashamed to show its face after the caper it cut up last week."

How dear to many over this broad land is the Academy bell, and what memories throng at the thought of its sound! Since it was hung in the belfry, three generations have entered the portals at its call, and passed out of the world.

"Some are married, some are dead,  
All are scattered now and fled."

This Presbyterian bell has changed its creed and its town for it now rings in the Wesleyan Church in Houghton.

The deep tones of the bell in the tower of the Methodist Episcopal Church were heard for the first time on the afternoon of December 14, 1906. The movement to purchase a bell was publicly started by A. W. Litchard who planned to have one in memory of Milton Woods, whose voice had been heard so many times within the walls of the church and at the burial of the dead, but before it was secured he too passed on, so the bell was inscribed with the names of Milton M. Woods, the sweet singer, and Alamanzo W. Litchard, the Sunday School Superintendent.

"Those Rushford bells, those Rushford bells,  
How many a tale their music tells!"

## XII

### REMINISCENCES

Maria Benjamin, daughter of James Gordon Jr.

I came to Rushford, Allegany County, in 1814. My father came in 1811 from Vermont. In 1810 some of the Gordons came. They cut down trees and made some log cabins in the winter of 1810-11. Tarbel Gordon went back to Vermont that winter. He came back here and the rest of the Gordons with him, only their father; he came in 1815. Mr. Morgan came in 1811 when the Gordons came. He made his home north of Cuba.

In 1817 my mother and hired girl and one little child besides myself were going through the woods from Bowen Gordon's farm to the old Metcalf farm, then Daniel Ely's farm, when a fox crossed the path a little way from us. That was the first fox that I ever saw.

In August, 1817, I had a little brother die. He was the first dead person I ever saw. I thought he was asleep and wondered that mother did not put him on the bed.

For a few years we had a great variety of music, not on the organ but in the woods. In the evening we could stand outside the door and hear south of the house an owl sing, "who, who, who, who-o-o-o," then north of the house the chorus "hah, hah, hah, ah-ah-ah-ah." The owl south of the house sang soprano, the one north alto. Next a fox would bark a little way from the barn; a little farther off the wolves would howl. Sometimes they would make a horrid noise. I think the wolves sang bass, while the fox sang

## Reminiscences

tenor. November 11, 1820, father went out to the barn in the morning and found two sheep the wolves had killed in the night. I think those were all that he lost by them. In 1821 father sent me through the woods to one of the neighbors; I had got part way through the woods when I heard a little noise and turned my head to see what it was; well, about three rods from me were three wolves looking at me. They went off one way and I went on my way to the place I had started for. When I came back I did not see them. I was not afraid of them as I had never heard of their hurting anyone. Bears were not very plentiful here in those days, but one day I was standing out doors a little way from the house and I saw an old bear come out of the woods and walk across a little pasture to another piece of woods. That was the only wild bear I ever saw. Deer were very plenty then. They would come into the pasture and eat grass with the cows. One day father went out to the edge of the woods and found an old deer and a little fawn standing by her; when the fawn saw him it lay down close to its mother; he took it up and brought it to the house. I taught it to drink milk. It grew to be a large deer. Then father sold it because it was so full of mischief.

In 1817 a Methodist minister came to Rushford. He came to my father's house. His name was Story. He was the first minister I ever saw. I think he was a missionary. In 1820 he came here to preach. His first name was Cyrus. He had a campmeeting that summer. It must have been near where Mrs. Elbert Hardy's house\* now stands.

At that time from the corner where Mr. Taylor's store stands to the Baptist parsonage† was a swamp. Logs were cut and laid down for a bridge for teams to cross on; then

\*Now owned and occupied by Abel M. Tarbell.

†Now owned and occupied by Miss Ellen E. Gordon.



## Reminiscences

north of this there were logs laid the other way for people to walk on. What a change! In the place of forests, churches and schoolhouses. All this because the people had a mind to work. Years ago we did not hear little girls say, "O, I am so tired I don't know what to do." Never until I was over thirty-five years old did I hear a woman say, "I am so nervous I can't work."

I have some pieces of a dress and an apron that I wore to school when I was a little girl. The cloth was made from flax that grew on Bowen Gordon's farm. My mother spun it and colored it.

I remember the first murder that was committed in Allegany County, but I don't remember the date. My father was going to see How hung. He got almost ready to go, then he thought he could not see a man hung by the neck till he was dead, so he staid at home. In 1832 there were six cases of typhus fever in Rushford. One little girl died of it. I think it was in 1825 that Cyrus Eaton was killed in the Pine Woods where they were cutting trees for lumber. The tree struck another tree; that threw the butt around and struck him on the head, killing him instantly. I have always remembered the text that was used at the funeral. It was, "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

I remember one little incident that happened when I was eight or nine years old. My father was coming down town to Thursday night prayer meeting. I asked him if I could go with him. He said "Yes, if you want to." It was light when we went down. There was no moon, so it was dark when we came home. The wolves were howling in different directions. We were not afraid of their noise. When we were near a quarter of a mile from home we had to turn from the road and walk through the woods by a

## Reminiscences

little footpath. Father said, "I don't know whether I can follow the path." I stepped in front of him and said, "I can." I had been through there several times. I looked up at the tops of the trees. I had learned the shape of the openings. In one place one-half of one tree top was broken off. All the light came through these little openings. If I had looked down I could not have followed the path. So long as I looked up I was all right. I thought then father meant what he said. I think now he said it to see what I would do or say. When Noah was in the ark he could see light only when he looked up. That is the way to get the true light.

In the year 1841 we had a very early spring, snow gone, roads dry. The month of April was like summer. There were thunder-showers and it was very warm. The trees leaved out. It was about the tenth or twelfth of May when we had a snow storm, then a freeze that killed all the leaves on the trees. They leaved out the second time.

July 11, 1848, at two o'clock in the morning Rev. Harris' little boy died. Four o'clock the same morning Mrs. Nancy Gordon Rowley died. Both of them were carried to the church. That was the only time I ever saw two caskets in the church at the same time.

I think those old settlers were a more neighborly class of people than the people of the present day. Then if one were sick the others would turn out and help them. Now

NOTE—The first execution in Allegany County occurred on the third Friday of March, 1824, when David How was hung in Angelica for shooting and killing Othello Church in his own house in the town of Friendship. Ten thousand people were present at the execution. Because of the circumstances preceding the murder much sympathy was expressed for How.

The following were among the members of the grand jury which indicted How: Freeman S. Wilson, Charles Swift, Horatio Smith, Levi Benjamin, Matthew P. Cady, Daniel Woods, Salmon Chamberlain and John Hammond.

## Wolves

if one is sick perhaps their next door neighbors won't see them for weeks; but One said "Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it not to me."

## WOLVES

THE father of Laura Scott Straight moved onto the farm now owned by Walter Howard when she was quite young, seventy-five or eighty years ago. Her father had fifteen or twenty sheep killed by wolves in one night, and about the same time she saw two wolves one day while on her way to school. She thought they were dogs but an older child by the name of Belknap who was with her, knew them to be wolves. One night Mrs. Straight's father was taken suddenly ill and a man by the name of Lowell Wright who was at their home said he would go for a doctor. On going to the barn for a horse he saw something lying by the barn door which proved to be a wolf. But the wolf was as frightened as the man and both ran as fast as possible though in opposite directions. She sometimes on moonlight nights saw wolves in the distance and frequently heard their howling. She distinctly remembers one night when there seemed to be many more than usual in the vicinity and their howls were so loud and seemed so near that the children of the family were much alarmed. But the noise gradually became fainter, and from that time they scarcely heard any thing of them. It almost seemed as if many had gathered in that place and were holding council as to the advisability of seeking a new home in less inhabited regions.

Before her people came to Rushford the farm where they lived was occupied by Amos Rose. He was putting

Note.—Reminiscences of Mrs. Laura Scott Straight, written by Mrs. Julia Williams Straight.

## Reminiscences

a new floor in his house and had it completed with the exception of a few boards. While the floor was in this unfinished condition Mrs. Rose went to a neighbor's and when she returned she saw in the cellar underneath the incomplete floor what she thought was a dog. But when she spoke to him he raised his head and she saw it was a wolf. She was alone and considerably frightened but fortunately remembered that there was a loaded gun in the house, so she got it and killed the wolf. There was a bounty paid at that time for each one killed, so she got money enough to buy a fine string of gold beads.

## RECOLLECTIONS

Ellen White Hubbell

**I** first saw the light of day in the White house on Upper Street in 1831. In my childhood days, on that street, were three stores: one, on the north corner of Main and Upper Streets, kept by Orville Boardman; another, on the south corner of Main and Upper Streets, kept by Oramel Griffin; and another, just north of J. G. Benjamin's present home, kept by Charles Gilman. The postoffice was in Mr. Boardman's store. North of the house where Mrs. Carrie Swetland now lives was a red and white checkered grocery kept by "Square" Hewitt. Two taverns accommodated the public: one, run by Cephas Young, was near the site of J. G. Benjamin's home; the other, run by Harmon Knickerbocker, faced Main Street. James Thirds had a tailor shop south of William VanDusen's present home; Osborn and Gilbert, a blacksmith shop, north of J. G. Osborn's house; and my father, Samuel White, a foundry, just above our home on land now owned by Mrs. Ida White Woods,

## Recollections

where plows, sled-runners and other castings were manufactured. Upper Street (Commercial Street) was a busy thoroughfare.

The first term of school which I attended was in a schoolhouse near the Methodist Church. Soon after, the district school house was built under the hill on the road to Gordonville. I can recall only two of the teachers of this school that are now living, Mr. Avery Washburn of Topeka, Kansas, and Mrs. Amanda Rood\* of Salt Lake City. Those were happy days. The young folks of the neighborhood enjoyed the paring-bees, the spelling schools and other social gatherings. So few of the large number are left, Mrs. Helen Laning, Mrs. Nancy DeKay and myself of the girls, and Wilson Gordon, George White† and Copeland Gordon of the boys nearest our age.

Two events that occurred on our street made a strong impression on my mind. One of them was the leaving by the stork of a little girl at the red White house, and on the same day the leaving of another at Mr. Gilman's where Newman Woods now lives. I didn't like it because they weren't both left at the White house. One of the girls was afterwards Mrs. Stellah Blanchard, the other is Mrs. Cornelia Green of Olean. The other event, which occurred a number of years later, was an invitation to a wedding at Oramel Griffin's to witness the nuptials‡ of Achsah Griffin and Mr. Champlain of Cuba.

The first physician I well remember was Dr. Smith. I can see him now on horseback with his saddle bags. The sight of him coming was a terror to us children, because we surely would have to be bled.

\*Died February 21, 1910.

†Died in October, 1909.

‡The marriage occurred June 2, 1846.



## Reminiscences

The Dolands settled in our district for a short time, then they bought a home on Lower Street, in the west district. They were a family whom "to know was to love and to name was to praise."

The town had some people who were eccentric. "Mort" Pratt was a kind-hearted man, always ready to help the needy, but he was very profane. His brother "Tom" was a devout Christian. On being asked why it was he would swear so, when his brother was a praying man, he said, "O Tom prays a little, and I swear a little, but we don't either of us mean anything." (1908.)

## REMINISCENCES OF RUSHFORD

Cornelia Gilman Green

**M**Y recollections carry me back to childhood days, when my dear parents were invited to parties, and sister and I were left in the motherly care of Auntie Young, who was ever ready to do kind deeds.

Mehitable, Mary and Charles Smith were among our near neighbors. Are any of them living? There were Mr. James Thirds, with his tailor shop and Auntie Thirds, with her lovely hats. I imagined the flowers grew on the almond shrubs that were in her yard. Nancy and Belle are still living and should be here today. Of the Parker family not many are left. The Carpenters, with Miss Caroline Smith, who became Mrs. Adolphus Scrogs, I have visited in their Buffalo home. Next, the dearest of all, were the Remingtons. Who could ever forget the musical family, the father, the son Samuel and my loved friend Marcia, who became Mrs. Wilson Gordon. On trips to Podunk, or the Woods settlement, where the Remingtons taught sing-

## Reminiscences of Rushford

ing school, noble-hearted Cyrus Gordon used to take us over with his handsome team of horses. A jollier party could not be found; we sang all the way over and back. I am thankful for those happy days for sad ones came later to all, and the memory of those days seem all the brighter. In the White family, Stella, or Mrs. Blanchard, was my own age, and we celebrated our birthdays together.

Mrs. Osborn was a very dear friend of my mother's and was beloved by all. My admiration for horses was increased every time I saw Mr. Osborn with his fine team. Mr. Lyman Congdon always had a habit when he met me as a little girl, of raising me in his arms, giving me a kiss and setting me down again.

The postoffice on the corner was owned by the Boardman family. I don't remember the postoffice being anywhere else. Across the way was the home of Oramel Griffin; it was a great treat to be invited to there . . . to hear Miss Achsah, later Mrs. Marshall B. Champlain, play on the piano. Who could ever forget the courtly Lanings? Both looked as if they had stepped out of an old time picture. This allusion calls up Mrs. Bonham Laning and her old friend, Cynthia Woodworth, just as I saw them in my girlhood days, with their never-to-be-forgotten pink and blue hats, so coquettish and becoming that we forgot our Sunday School lessons in admiration of the hats and the faces under them.

Next in memory is Aunt Clarissa Griffin, who, when she laughed, shook everybody around her. Who remembers "Grandpa" Hammond, the deaf man who regularly attended the Presbyterian Church? In the kindness of his heart he made for sister and me some little benches for our swinging feet to rest upon, surprising us one Sunday morning as we were about to sing, "Lord, in the morning

## Reminiscences

"Thou shalt hear my voice ascending high." My thanks went higher than usual that morning. Dear, good Father Hammond!

I cannot omit speaking of our singing teacher, Horatio Palmer, whom we had hoped would be with us today. I must also speak of the Bradley family. Juliette and Augusta were playmates never to be forgotten. I also recall Addison Freeman, Isaac Bradley, and Harrison Noble who married Aldura Bell. Later she became mother-in-law of our excellent Governor Higgins.

Annie Stewart, good motherly soul, could never be forgotten, nor John, her son, one of the brightest boys in school. We prophesied for him a bright future, but he died young.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Norton claim a place in our memory. A letter received from Mrs. Norton since the death of her husband shows her mental faculties still unimpaired; it is a beautiful letter and highly prized. Judge McCall, his wife and large family were among the friends of old time. Judge Lyon, whom my father admired for his good sense, Uncle Bill Gordon and Samson Hardy were among my father's friends, also Harmon Hyde.

Time forbids my mentioning more, except Orrin Trall Higgins, whom my father loved as his own son. He began his business career in Rushford with my father when very young. He possessed noble principles, devotion to business and uprightness in all the relations of life, as well as other fine traits of manhood.

## RECOLLECTIONS

B. J. Jewell

MY recollections date back no further than 1833, when Rushford was composed of Upper and Lower Streets with now and then a house between them; at times rivalry ran high between the two localities. Lower Street had such men as Bates Turner Hapgood, Israel Thompson, Samson Hardy, Joseph Bell, Esq. Cady, Isaiah Lathrop, John Holmes, Chapman Brooks, Nathaniel James, Rufus Jewell and John and William Merryfield, all very straight-laced men, with a temperance hotel in their end of the town; while Upper Street had Mr. Boardman, Mr. Knickerbocker, Oramel Griffin, Esq. White, True Swift, Cephas Young, Wm. Woodworth, John Osborn and others, with two hotels kept respectively by Mr. Young and Mr. Knickerbocker which were not considered quite up to the standard of morals of Lower Street.

Some parts of Division Street, as I shall now call it, were at the time fenced with rails. In front of Dr. Wm. Smith's residence, the doctor's mare was often hitched to the top rail of the fence. While hitched there one day, Mrs. Thompson came up the street and was about to get over the fence, when the mare sprang back with the rail which hit her on the side of the head, injuring her quite badly. Another peculiarity of the mare was that when the doctor turned her out to graze, she would lop her ears and chase him.

Rushford and vicinity at this time and along in the forties could be divided into classes. One class could see nothing on Sunday but a church spire, but always shut their eyes when the contribution box came around, although they made lavish requests to the Great Giver for good situations

## Reminiscences

after this life. The other class made few professions and tried to get all the pleasures that nature affords. They were visitors at Rushford village on Saturdays and their headquarters were usually at Cephas Young's tavern on Upper Street where they would read newspapers and tell stories of pioneer life. Of course during their afternoon exercises one of them might get ducked in Knickerbocker's watering trough if a good opportunity was presented.

A class of every-day Christians were Wm. Gordon, Sr., Mr. Goff, Daniel Woods, Oliver Jenison and Judge McCall.

I will present pictures of two brothers who were among the pioneers; one is in the woods at a camp meeting, singing and shouting, the other at a circus being hoisted on the shoulders of his nephews, with nothing on but a palm-leaf hat, linen pants, and cotton shirt open at the neck, barefoot, whooping and laughing. Which gets the more out of life?

From 1838 to 1850 and later, Rushford had more than its quota of intelligent men and women, but of her present population, modesty forbids me to speak. Rushford has long since become the home of retired farmers.

## REMINISCENCES

Mrs. Esther B. Woods Eldridge

THE Caneadea Indians often visited Rushford. They would shake the big pockets worn by the women to see if a coin would be given them for whiskey. One called on "Uncle Daniel" for some for a sick toe. Uncle thought it no go, but Shongo said the whiskey he would drink and it would go kerchunk, chunk, chunk, right down to his toe. Mother learned to talk with them, much to our amusement. Sometimes they would sing and dance around us and give a



## Reminiscences

whoop and take off our scalps, which though it frightened, amused us.

As to food in those days, I did not hear any complaint, though they could all repeat,

“Bean porridge hot, bean porridge cold,  
Bean porridge in the pot nine days old.”

In 1828 when I arrived there was no scarcity at our house. There were always maple sugar in the tub, pork in the barrel, chicken and lamb for a change, and veal in the springtime. Milk, butter and cheese, cornmeal and flour were seldom wanting. Partridges were plenty in the woods, the streams abounded in trout, and no one froze for want of firewood. As late as 1835 or '40 bears were captured and I saw deer feeding in our pastures.

In the year 1813 the cannonading of Perry's victory on Lake Erie was heard in Rushford, and often on a still morning the roar of Niagara Falls was distinctly heard by the acute ears of early risers.

In the winter, sap troughs and spouts were made so as to be in readiness when the sap commenced to run. But didn't the Vermonters laugh when an Irishman did not hurry into his sugar camp, but said if he liked the business he should keep it up all summer.

Our amusements were elections, town meetings, training days, campmeetings, logging bees, husking bees and quiltings. Our conveyance in the winter consisted of two oxen and a sled, and there were no accidents, excepting an occasional tip-over into a snowdrift. I remember that mother said that one time she sat in a rocking-chair on a sled and as they were going up a hill, her chair slid off, but she was so overcome by laughter that she could not call father who was driving the oxen. On reaching the top of

## Reminiscences

the hill, he was greatly surprised to see his load at the bottom.

Sometimes there was danger in burning off a wood lot. You might be surrounded by fire or your cattle might. When Mr. Hill came from England he said he thought it was wicked to burn up such beautiful trees. He and his wife were lovely Christians and a great help to the church.

My Grandmother Gary was noted for her wit, and many are the anecdotes concerning her I have heard from people who were acquainted with her. I was her namesake. She said they always named the homeliest after her; but she never forgot my birthday and always had a nice gift for me. The visits of my grandparents to our country home were great occasions, for they never forgot to bring candy and sweetmeats.

## REMINISCENCES OF PODONQUE

Esther B. Woods Eldridge—Clarissa Woods Calkins

**I**N the early history of the town Podonque was called the Woods Settlement, and the cemetery was called the Woods Cemetery. Daniel Woods donated the land for the burial place, and Riley Woods' daughter Fanny was the first one buried there. The name Podonque was given by a debating club formed in that school district by Daniel Leavens, Watson Woods, Dodge Persons, Ira and John Bishop, Horace Babbitt, Nehemiah Horton and other young men of their ages. This club flourished between the years 1830-45. The French language was quite popular at that time and H. C. Woods says that some wanted to spell it Peaudonque but finally it was decided to make it a little more like English and spell it Podonque. A man from the

## Reminiscences of Podonque

western portion of the town in speaking of the debating club said that some of them became so accustomed to parliamentary style of language that in after years when the wife of one of them pulled his hair severely, he shouted "Elegantine, desist."

One of the best families who lived in that neighborhood in the early days, was Mr. and Mrs. Swallow. She was a niece of the renowned Ethan Allen of Vermont. Their daughter Fanny was well educated and a great reader. She could debate learnedly on any question of the day, and was better posted in politics than most of the men. She married Gilbert Wheeler. Their grandson, Clyde Wheeler, was graduated from Rushford High School in 1903 and is now a lawyer in Youngstown, Ohio.

Uncle Daniel Woods, as he was called by all the people about there, deserved much credit for the wide-awake Methodism he introduced into the town. He prayed and sung and exhorted the people, and his rich sonorous voice resounded over hill and dale for three miles. The "first white woman" was converted through his preaching and lived the happy life of a Christian about fifty years. She fell asleep in Jesus in 1869. Although she had an older sister and was only nine years old when her father came to Rushford, he left the other women of the family in Centerville and took her along to cook the "boiled dinner" for the men who built the log house. She was ever ready and willing to do all that she could, and the text that the Rev. E. A. Rice took at her funeral was very appropriate—"She hath done what she could."

Elder Warren Bannister was an early Methodist preacher. He had an ingenious way of making comparisons, declaring in one of his sermons that when Methodist and Baptist preachers got to arguing on doctrines (which they

## Reminiscences

often did years ago) it was like a hen scratching a skein of yarn, the more she scratches, the more it snarls.

The mothers of the Woods boys (Daniel, Ely, Riley, William and Albert) and the Bannister boys (Warren, Pliny, Roderick and Wayne) had a brother who was a noted school teacher. His name was Abishai Ely, but he was called by his relatives "Uncle Bish." His name was a household word with the Woods boys, and their children were never tired of hearing about him and his unique way of punishing his pupils. He made them chew wormwood or sit on the end of a ruler. It seemed as if his knowledge knew no bounds. I heard Col. Fuller say as late as our Civil War that if he desired information on any subject he always wrote to "Uncle Bish Ely."

The tooting of a dinner horn at any other time of the day than noon was understood in the Woods Settlement as an alarm of fire or other calamity, so when Ely Woods was digging a well and the pet mare slipped in backwards, "Aunt Nancy" took down the dinner horn and standing at the head of the horse to keep her quiet, tooted for the neighbors who soon came and landed the beast safe above ground.

## RUSHFORD REMINISCENCES

Harrison L. Wilson

MY earliest recollections of Rushford are visits that we used to pay my grandfather, Joshua Wilson, when I would go with my father, Lewis Wilson, mother and my eldest sister, Harriet (afterwards Mrs. Benjamin Cooley), from Caneadea (where I was born) to stay a day or two or longer. After Hannah, my youngest sister, was born (she became the wife of Dr. Palmer of Pike), I do not remember that we went so often for she was only three years old

## Rushford Reminiscences

when my father died in 1834. About two years after father died, mother went to live with grandfather, for grandmother was an invalid and sister Harriet had been doing most of their work for some time. Grandfather's wife (his second) was my mother's own mother and they were married before my own parents were. Mother therefore kept the house and I was with them a short time when arrangements were made for me to stay with Oliver Benjamin's family, relatives of ours, for a while. I was to go to school, and soon found I could make myself useful between times, feeding and watering the stock, milking the cows, sawing wood, etc. One task was that of gathering stones from the orchard and meadows, even to the size of a chestnut. I was kept busy but I enjoyed the work and had a good time. My first remembrances of Rushford as a boy ten years old are very pleasant indeed, and I guess the family were satisfied on their part for when spring came they wanted me to stay through the summer.

In November, 1837, when I was eleven years old, I first came to live in Rushford village as a boy of all work for Joseph Bell, tanner, currier and shoemaker, whose trades I was expected to learn. His house and tannery were located on the west side of the lower street on the east bank of the creek, about twenty-five rods north of the Main Street bridge. John Merrifield\* lived north of Mr. Bell, and he and his brother William† had a cabinet shop just opposite Mr. Bell's house, making a general line of furniture and having one apprentice. John's wife was Cassandra Rawson; William married Sophia Gordon. Grover Leavens and an apprentice, Rufus Jewel, by name, were making chairs in Merryfield's shop, the turning being done by a foot lathe, boys who would tread the lathe were welcome visitors. I

\*He lived in the house now owned by Miss Louisa Gilbert.

†He lived on Main Street in the house now owned by Mrs. R. B. Laning.



## Reminiscences

remember seeing a large load of chairs starting out one evening to go to Lima Seminary, driven by Chester Delano. It was inferred that these were a contribution from Israel Thompson, a blacksmith of Rushford who was a prominent Methodist. Mr. Thompson had a blacksmith shop and a wagon shop combined. Alpheus Howser (grandfather of Charles Alpheus Howser of Rochester) was his apprentice. Alpheus Howser married Martha Woodworth, and her sister, Helen Woodworth, married Boneham Laning, brother of A. P. Laning, a prominent lawyer of Buffalo who then lived in Rushford. One event I remember in connection with Mr. Thompson was a contract made by the man who afterwards became the Rev. Asa Saxe to build for him ten one-horse lumber wagons. Jacob Saxe was brother to Asa. Their home was in Madison County, I think, but while in Rushford they lived with their uncle, Mr. Persons, and with others with whom they had dealings. Jacob being a Universalist minister, I suppose Asa studied with him. They picked up a fellow by the name of Reynolds in Cuba who also studied with Jacob and became a remarkable preacher for a boy, and a green looking boy at that. Harriet Benjamin called him a phenomenon.

Patrick Cady, the renowned mail-stage driver, lived across the street with his father and brothers, keeping some fine horses. For a number of years he drove the mail stage from Burrville to Farmersville, stopping at Rushford. When I was a child at Burrville, I was much impressed by his four-horse coach. The horses were exceptionally well groomed and decorated with tassels projecting from the head stalls just below the ear; these tassels were clean and white, being made from the lower end of a cow's tail, and the long white hairs waved backward in the wind. The outfit made a fine appearance and created much admiration all along the route

## Rushford Reminiscences

which of course was through Rushford village. The way-bill used to read "mail way-bill from Jamestown to Bath." Three mail routes centered at Burrville; one to Angelica, one to Farmersville and one to Pike.

Samson Hardy had a farm just north of us, opposite the creek road. He was a pillar in the Baptist Church, and my half-brother, Eri Wilson (son of my father's first wife, who was living with his grandfather Freeman in the town of Rushford on the Allegany road), thought much of him. Among his children were two sons, Arthur and Webster, and two daughters, Martha and Lucy. A second tannery was kept by Mr. Searl on the lower street, on the south side of the creek that ran through the village. He also kept a shoe shop in another building. David Searl was a very fine man. I think he married one of Newell McCall's sisters. Isaiah Lathrop had a tin shop on the northeast corner opposite Brook's hotel. There was a store on the upper street, a small affair, owned by a man named Boardman. There was another store owned by Oramel Griffin and a third on the lower street which was run by various members of the McCall family. In later years my brother Eri clerked in the same store. There was also a drug store on a small scale presided over by a McCall. On the upper street, facing Main street, was the hotel kept by the father of George Knickerbocker and at the south end of the upper street, opposite the Caneadea road, was another kept by Josephus Young. A second blacksmith shop was owned and run by John Osborn. There were two schoolhouses. What was called the west schoolhouse was on Main Street, west of the creek, and the south schoolhouse was on an angling road that led from Young's tavern down to Gordonville. The winter I was at Mr. Bell's I went to the west school, taught by Oliver Butterfield, a very austere man. There were two churches,

## Reminiscences

Methodist and Baptist. Later on, when I was grown, a Presbyterian Church was added; still later a Universalist. I went to Sunday School frequently at the Baptist Church where my brother Eri was a member and a teacher of my class. They tell that when he was baptized, not long after he first went there, the ice had to be cut for the occasion. The Baptist preacher for a number of years was Elder Absalom Miner who married a daughter of Judge McCall. Their church building stood on a narrow, swampy plot of ground east of where the present Baptist Church stands, a long, low structure which I do not think was ever painted.

I went to visit mother one day at Grandfather Wilson's and told her I was not going to stay with Mr. Bell any longer as the work was pretty hard for a small boy. "Beaming hides" was one thing I was expected to do and the heavy hides had to be lifted out of large vats of water where they had been put to soak. Sometimes the ice was half an inch thick and had to be broken before the hides could be drawn out. I went back, however, for two days more to grind some bark and get my clothes, and then, according to an agreement made by mother and Eri, went again to Oliver Benjamin's to stay until I was fourteen years old. I attended school summer and winter for two years. The Benjamins lived in a small house, the northeast room of which was called the "square room." In it was an old-fashioned clock set on brackets well toward the ceiling. It had weights that ran it, weighing I should say about ten pounds each, a mahogany case and a little narrow door which you opened to wind the clock by lifting a weight and pulling a cord. There was also a secretary made of especially nice curly maple which Oliver found on his farm and which was constructed by his brother-in-law, John Neff. This was the best room; a bedroom adjoining was the guest room. The

## Rushford Reminiscences

dining and the winter cook room were one, and in it were the beds of the family. An adjoining stairway led to the chamber above, which was the attic and my bedroom. A large pantry and a summer kitchen and a wood house completed the home. Sylvia, a little girl, was the only child at that time. Later, perhaps a dozen years, another child, Rhoda, was born, who lived to be thirteen years old. A wholesome-looking child with wonderful, long eyelashes and head of hair.

I chopped wood, picked up stones in the meadows, for Rushford was a stony place and scythes would easily dull, and helped make sugar in the spring, getting the buckets out, tightening the hoops, setting them to catch rain water to cleanse them, loading them onto sleds, driving through the bush and leaving one or two at each maple tree; and then on warm days when sap would run, going round with team and large tub to empty them and help make the sugar. One of the pastimes of boys and girls was to go in the woods evenings and make the sugar themselves. I was to have stayed until I was fourteen years old but in the meantime Oliver had decided to build a barn and wanted me to stay another year. Such an arrangement was made. So I made my annual visit to Caneadea and was set to drawing timber from the woods nearly two miles away for the new barn, driving the oxen while walking beside them. It was an awkward job turning some corners with the long timbers dragging, and the first trip I did not calculate just right and the tongue of the sled broke. I did not know what to do, none of the men being there, since they were busy in the woods felling and hewing the timber, so I unloosed the oxen and left their burden where it was in the road. Uncle Asa Benjamin (father of Oliver) made a temporary tongue. After that I had no accidents.



## Reminiscences

One time there was trouble in the school district; those in the south part wishing a division of the district into two districts, those on the north side wishing no change. The change had been denied by the State Superintendent, but when Leverett Woods was elected Collector at the school meeting, he took occasion to resign at the next meeting for he knew there would be trouble. No election was made, for no one wanted the position, but a large, strong man by the name of Dake, a north end resident with children, who ran and owned an interest in Oliver Benjamin's sawmill, was fixed upon to do the work, and the assessment was made out and the warrant given to him. When he came to Uncle Calvin Leavens, pay was refused. Dake levied on a log chain and took it with him. Uncle Calvin suggested that he levy on his fanning mill instead. Dake said afterward that he might have done so for the assessment after mentioning the dollars and cents also called for a *mill*. When he got around to Uncle Riley Woods, pay was again refused so Dake levied on a splendid new wagon, hitched it to his own and went away with it. The boys from the southern part of the district hunted thoroughly for it, even going through the hay mow in Oliver Benjamin's barn, thinking it might be hidden there, but unsuccessfully. Dake had it safely locked up. Uncle Riley was a thorn in the flesh at school meetings; you could hear from him in some shape or other every minute or two, and at one meeting having twitted a citizen of some family trouble, he ended by challenging him. The Methodist brother promptly stood out on the floor, but Uncle Daniel Woods, Uncle Riley's brother, a Methodist exhorter, called off his brother in the church and the brother in the flesh failed to come forward, and those who were aching to have the fight come off were disappointed. One summer when I was not attending school, Uncle Asa Benjamin, his brother, Levi



## Rushford Reminiscences

Benjamin, Oliver Benjamin and their respective wives went on a visit to Ovid. Lucy Woods kept house for us in their absence and the school mistress, Melissa Spoor, boarded there during the time they were away. One night I waked up and saw that the window in the north end of the chamber looked as if it were lighted with moonshine. Turning over in bed I saw a flickering on the south wall of the room and jumping out of bed I ran to the north window, and there was a bright fire in sight. I thought at first it was a large pile of pine roots but it turned out to be the schoolhouse that was burning. I saw Thomas Eaton, who was working Benjamin's farm, pulling the rails of the fence away from the building, and soon after I heard the voice of a girl calling to the school mistress that the school was on fire. The building was entirely burned, and that ended the school for the summer. Some time afterward we learned the names of the rebel secessionists who did the Klu Klux work. But in the end harmony was restored. They built another schoolhouse about half a mile further east on what was called the Cold Creek road. The roads in that section run parallel and direct north and south over hills and through valleys. This Cold Creek road left the north and south road and bore off to the east as you went north.

When I was fifteen I left Oliver Benjamin's to go back to Caneadea and assisted in building, or rather waited on the men who were building, the locks on the new canal. The winter after, I attended school in Houghton, and the next winter I went back to Rushford to Uncle Asa Benjamin's. If I staved until I was twenty-one I was to have three months of schooling in the winter, good clothing, a dress-up Sunday suit and one hundred dollars. I settled right down to business and went in. Uncle Asa Benjamin, as everyone called him, married Abigail Swinerton and had six children.

## Reminiscences

Oliver, Sylvia, Percy, Asa, Abigail and Harriet. Oliver married Lucia Woods, who was the daughter of Danjel Woods and my own cousin. Sylvia married John Neff and went to Centerville to live. She had two daughters, Maria and Abbey Jane. Percy married Holton Colburn and was the mother of three daughters, Gratie Marcella, Julia and Myra. Asa died. I never saw him. An incident connected with his death, was that a neighbor's boy of the same name, bringing his things, walked in upon the family and announced that he had come to take the place of the departed. Abigail married John C. Bishop and had a daughter, Estella, a son, Benjamin Franklin, born on the Fourth of July, and Sarah, Mary and Ira, the last one named after his grandfather Bishop. Harriet was Uncle Asa's youngest child and a bright, fine-looking girl and the young men of the district and some outside the district cast wistful eyes upon her. But she favored George Colburn so he became the successful suitor and she was married to him at her home on or about my twenty-first birthday. Aside from the presence of the Rev. Jacob Saxe and his brother Asa there were no guests at the wedding. Harriet Colburn had three children, Wallace, Flora and Homer. Grandfather said that George was one of the most enterprising fellows for mischief that he ever saw, but he couldn't hold a candle to Homer. Homer was a great hand to do his own work. When he died he had one hundred beehives of his own making and he could shoe his own horses. Uncle Asa was a fair shoemaker and a pretty good cattle doctor. He made cheese in the summer time and butter in the winter time. They did not bring so much money as now; I remember Harriet wanted a new cloth dress and the old folks made arrangements to have it paid in cheese. We were allowed four cents a pound for the cheese and good cheese at that.

## Rushford Reminiscences

The last winter I went to school we studied Cobb's Spelling Book. We took right to it. The older scholars went right in to spell all the words there were to be spelled. I won the prize for spelling, twenty-five cents cash. We studied Adams' Arithmetic, geography and grammar. I studied algebra a little also. We never did any drawing except drawing wood or something of that sort. We didn't even draw the girls around because we did not have any hand sleds. We used to have evening parties often, perhaps not quite once a week, but very frequently. There used to be a play called "Snap and catch 'em," and one called "Roll the platter." Cake, cheese and coffee were passed and not later than ten o'clock the party would break up. The chances were that every girl would have an escort home. We would come and go with horse and cutter, either singly or in sleigh loads. I remember we used to have spelling bees and that Betsy Hill was reproved for bringing her knitting work along. I remember a celebration gotten up for the Fourth of July and the Sons of Temperance getting General Riley from Rochester to speak for them. I remember going fishing one Sunday with Clark Woods. I wonder how we dared to do it, for Clark's father was a very strict Methodist.

The spring of the year after I was twenty-one, I went to work for John Bishop who had taken Uncle Asa's farm to work, eating at the Bishop table but keeping my room at Uncle Asa's. John Bishop was pretty well read in history and Abigail was not far behind, having taught school and being the reader of the family. We borrowed the poem, "The Lady of the Lake," and read it evenings. Abigail would explain quite a good many things that we did not comprehend the meaning of. She was one of the best girls I ever knew. She was charitable. She was always ready to instruct me, being several years older. I would go to her

## Reminiscences

with unsolved problems' and she would help me out. I was with the Bishops about six months and then I went to Holton Colburn's. I boarded with him and attended school or institute in preparation for teaching. While I was there our town superintendent brought a Welshman by the name of Williams and recommended me to him as one fitted to teach the school in the outskirts of Farmersville, so I was hired by him. That took me out of Rushford for three months, and then, if memory serves me right, I worked for H. Colburn that summer six months. While I was working for him a trustee of the district school at Mill's Mills, town of Hume, hired me to teach. The spring after that I went to East Bloomfield to work for my half brother, Eri Wilson. I left Rushford on foot, driving a pair of steers a distance of about thirty miles, and attended on the way the marriage of Emily Buell and Loren Colburn, which I did not expect to do when I started out. When I reached Bloomfield the first person to welcome me was Emily Buell of my brother's wife's family, who later became my wife.

## RECOLLECTIONS OF KELLOGGVILLE RUSH CREEK AND EAST RUSHFORD

H. B. Ackerly

**M**Y father moved from Delaware County, N. Y., October, 1834. He first bought one hundred acres below McGrawville but later sold the land and bought where Calvin Kellogg now lives. The first settlers in the Pliny Bannister school district, now called Kelloggville, were P. Bannister, R. Bannister, L. P. Walker, Daniel Balcom, John Orcutt, Aaron Capen, Jonathan Ackerly, Wm. Ackerly, Jared Phillips, Isaac Towell, Wm. Wheeler, Luther Woodworth, Daniel



## Kelloggville, Rush Creek and East Rushford

Kingsbury and Silas Topping. The most of them had large families; thirty or forty attended the winter school. This was considered one of the best schools in the country. They had a frame schoolhouse. Log schoolhouses were more common. Schools were supported by each family paying according to the number of days sent to school and furnishing so much wood for each scholar. Sometimes people would neglect to bring their share of wood to school and the school boys had to go with hand-sleds and pick up hemlock bark off from old logs. A good many shiftless people lived then, the same as now. There was no compulsion to send children to school so a great many had a poor chance to get an education. Pliny Bannister was an old school teacher and took a great interest in schools.

Pliny Bannister and his brother Roderick built a sawmill and gristmill and a grindstone factory at the head of the Gorge and did a good business. These settlers came previous to seventy-five years ago. Later others moved into the school district, Chas. Colburn, George Colburn, Caleb Colburn, Abijah Colburn, Foster Sutton, Wm. Sutton, Jerome Lewis, Nathaniel Seavey, John Pryor, John Barnes and others. Wilson Gordon and sons, Orson and Thomas, had a sawmill on his farm, now owned by Mrs. Fannie McCall. Mr. Jerome Lewis managed the mill for the Gordons. Chas. Colburn and Sons purchased a sawmill privilege for a water-mill of my father on the farm now owned by Calvin Kellogg and sawed lumber for a number of years. L. P. Walker purchased the sawmill of the Bannisters. He lumbered for a number of years and sawed a great deal for customers. It was common to see Andrew Kimball from Cream Ridge and the Goforths from the Creek Road district get down there with their oxen before daylight, and to see Almond Benjamin and Newell McCall



## Reminiscences

go into the Pine Woods and get out with a load of logs before daylight. Luther Gordon lumbered there a number of years and had a lumber camp on his grandfather Wood worth's farm. I remember that he and the Colburn brothers bought a pine lot of Oliver Benjamin and paid five dollars a thousand. It was considered a great sale and it was, as the lumber delivered at Caneadea sold at about nine dollars a thousand. The one hundred acres now owned by Mrs. Jennie Litchard Gilbert was given to our Baptist Church by the Holland Land Company. It was very heavily timbered with pine and was divided up into five and ten-acre lots and sold to the highest bidder. That gave those that had no timber a chance to secure some. I can remember when our Baptist Church\* stood in the woods on that farm. People said the land would not be worth a dollar an acre but the Litchard brothers thought better of it and bought it and cleared it and made a farm of it. I consider it one of the best farms in Allegany County. There have been millions of feet of lumber cut in the Kelloggville valley and hauled to Buffalo with teams, fifty-four miles, and sold for from seven to eight dollars a thousand. A thousand feet made a load. They had to eat cold victuals all the four days gone.

The farms were small, generally fifty to one hundred acres, and all woods. Think of men moving large families into the woods with no schools near by and having to go where they could get work to get provisions to keep their families during the winter. They made black salts out of wood-ashes and sent them to Rochester. I have heard that they could not make more than two or three shillings a day burning hard wood and making black salts. Those were the hard times that Elder Thomas Pratt spoke of at the fiftieth anniversary. In those days they had plenty of

\*The church was then the standing timber.

## Kelloggville, Rush Creek and East Rushford

game and fish. Deer and other wild animals were numerous. Speckled trout were abundant; they were the finest fish we ever had. They disappeared after the country was cleared.

I remember when the Indians lived on the Genesee River and had brush houses to live in on their hunting trips. They were friendly and would often call at houses and ask for something to eat. As a rule I think they were honest. In all of my Western travels among them for the last thirty-five years we would leave our clothes and provisions in the woods and they were never molested. I had a half-breed for a guide and he told me our things would be safe and I found it so.

L. P. Walker's sawmill that he purchased of the Bannisters was washed away. He became discouraged and went to California at the time of the gold excitement. It took some three or four months to get there. He was gone three or four years and came back without much gold. His sons John and Charles went to work and rebuilt the mill and paid off his debts while he was gone. The mill was afterwards sold to C. Balcom. At one time when Mr. Lucian Freeman, the well-known school commissioner, was visiting my brother Andrew, we had a quantity of pine logs in the pond. The Caneadea Creek was rising fast, so they with Mr. Balcom went down in the evening to try to secure the logs. They saw that they were surrounded by a rapid rush of water with bridges, trees and broken houses floating on every side of them. They started for the highest point of land where there were not more than eight or ten feet of dry land for them to stand on. It was a very dark night and their friends feared that they were lost. They had to remain there till morning. The sawmill and dam went out and the logs were lost. Their lives were saved by the break in the dam which lowered the water. I think O. T. Higgins'

## Reminiscences

house went at that time and a great deal of other property.

This was small compared with what the first settlers suffered, with poor roads and bridges, living in log houses with stone fire-places and using iron kettles to bake in. I remember when my folks got a tin oven which was set in front of the fire and the bread had to be turned often to keep one side from burning. When a spare rib was to be roasted a tow string was fastened to the timber above and to the spare rib to hold it in front of the fire. They had to keep it well basted to keep it from burning. When the first stove with four griddles came into use it was considered a great improvement but only a few people were able to buy one, for a number of years. Ox-sleds, wooden-shod, were largely used. Some people had horses. Their conveyances were the lumber-wagons in which they moved from the East. The roads were such that a buggy could not stand the work. Matches were not in use. Flint from a gun-lock struck with steel or a jack-knife would make a spark which was caught on dry punk. Sometimes it would fail and they would have to go to the neighbors to borrow a brand of fire.

The main thoroughfare was from the east to the west. Sometimes a long train of covered wagons moved to Ohio or Michigan. Sometimes droves of cattle, sheep, horses, mules and hogs were driven through here. There was a dense forest of pine from Kelloggville to Caneadea and in fly-time drovers were bothered to get through. Boys were then in great demand at a sixpence, which was six and one-quarter cents.

Our fathers were anxious to have the wheat harvest come in Livingston and Genesee Counties. They would shoulder their cradles and travel through. Their families at home would get along the best they could by dividing the

## Kelloggville, Rush Creek and East Rushford

flour they had with one another. The northern farmers would ask them if they had brought their leek-hooks with them. We are now independent of them. Our Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties abound in rich grasses which produce the finest butter and cheese in the United States. Harrington and Schuyler of Medina had the job of building locks on the Genesee Valley Canal at Caneadea, which was commenced in 1837. They quarried stone in Kelloggville, where there was a layer of stone two and one-half feet thick, and hauled hundreds of loads over Sand Hill to Caneadea. This made work for a large number of men for a long time.

But few are living that went to school when I did. They are Parker Woodworth of Girard, Pennsylvania; Albert Bannister of Pasadena, California; Amelia Bannister of Fort Scott, Kansas; Mrs. Nelson Smith of Farmersville Center, New York; and A. J. Ackerly\* of Cuba, New York. This shows the changes in that school district since the settlement of Rushford. It shows that we are passing away, one generation after another, rapidly.

Now I shall confine my thoughts to Rush Creek. It was rightly named since it has a gravelly bottom and the freshets changed its course rapidly. This has caused great damage to farms and sawmills. There were four sawmills in that valley. My father owned one. Our dam went out in January. We went to work and rebuilt it. The last day while scraping gravel out of the creek there was anchor ice in the running water which was waist deep. We did not take cold.

I will, as I remember, give you the names of the inhabitants in Rush Creek school district: Lucian Frost, Luke Warren (who owned forty acres of woodland and

\*Died April 13, 1909.



## Reminiscences

lived in a log house with his seventeen children. It was said they had to dig roots for a living, at least they had a hard time to get along. The father became crazy and traveled constantly through this and adjoining towns saying, "Alonzo Jenison, the devil, stole my broad ax." After he moved out of the house it was found between the ceiling and the side of the log house), Watkins Ackerly, Nelson Rose, Isaac Cronk, Erastus Covill, Seth Covill, George Covill, Ezra Sweatland, Allen Capen, A. Gunn, "Bachelor" Tilton, L. Anderson, Wm. Harris, Abel and Ames Slusher, Asa B. Smith, Oliver Jenison, Luther Jenison, Ira Petty, Elijah Anderson, James Haynes, Daniel Haynes, and "Father" Haynes. At that time there were no bridges, the roads were poor and they had to ford the creek. I remember when they had to crook around trees and deep mud-holes and it seemed almost impossible to get through.

There were a number of different denominations, Baptist, Methodist, Wesleyan Methodist and Christian. The Mormons worked hard but did not accomplish much, neither did the Christians, as they called themselves. The other denominations have continued to support a church. Different ministers would come and preach to them. "Father" Goff, a good Christian man, exhorted them often with much effect. In the early days Luther Jenison erected a rough, one-story building for the Methodist Episcopal Church. It was removed a few years after and meetings were held in the schoolhouse, until a few years ago when the people erected a nice Wesleyan Methodist Church, for which they deserve great praise.

Frank Johnson, father of Mell Johnson of Cuba, came in 1840 from Dryden, Tompkins County, New York, and lumbered for John McGraw and E. Southworth on lands now owned by Wm. Simpson. He stocked two water-



Kelloggville, Rush Creek and East Rushford mills with logs. In 1848 John McGraw and E. Southworth came and built the steam sawmill and built up the town and named it McGrawville. It was a good business place and a good deal of money was handled. The store did a big business. In the winter it was common to see twenty or thirty teams from the north, Wyoming and Livingston Counties, loaded with lumber. Lumber was hauled to Caneadea to ship by canal to different markets. It had to be hauled over Sand Hill till 1852, when a plank road was built to Caneadea through the Gorge, over which a team could draw a great load. It made a very pleasant drive for carriages as it was cool in summer and the scenery was beautiful. In winter it was cold as the suction of the air bit more sharp than elsewhere. There was a branch toll road from Kelloggville to Rushford and the office was at the junction on Calvin Kellogg's farm. After McGraw and Southworth had lumbered for a number of years and taken off a great portion of the timber, they sold the property to Rumsey and Phelps of Buffalo. Mr. Rumsey was a tanner. Afterwards they sold out to Albright and Kelley. Mr. Rumsey said he made \$25,000, in experience. Albright and Kelley ran it a number of years. Finally every bridge was swept away by an unusual freshet which caused a great pile of slabs to move from L. P. Walker's sawmill and take everything before it. Albright and Kelley sued L. P. Walker for damages and were beaten on the ground that that had been the place to pile the slabs for years before the road had been built and they had never gone out before. That finished the plank road. John McGraw was one of the best business men I ever knew. He was anxious to have a plank road built so he could get his lumber to the canal cheaper. He worked up a feeling among the people that it would be a paying investment, so a stock company was

## Reminiscences

formed to build a road from McGrawville to Caneadea and from Kelloggville to Rushford. The contractors were James, and Luther Gordon, Pliny Bannister, John Barnes, Calvin Kellogg, Luke Hitchcock and Mr. Kingsley. Michael Bolton did a good deal of work on the road. The road paid the lumbermen but did not pay the stockholders.

Mr. John Barnes had two miles of plank road to build. My father and my brother and myself helped him. The three of us with our ox team earned, altogether, four dollars and a quarter a day and boarded ourselves. We thought we were making money fast. We furnished some plank at four dollars and a half a thousand. The last of October we finished a bridge across C. Balcom's mill-pond east of McGrawville going into the water up to our waists to place timber.

In the thirties we had a cyclone. It came from Olean through Hinsdale and Rushford near McGrawville. A house owned by Bosworth was demolished and one person killed. It went on east through Belfast and Belmont and destroyed millions of feet of pine timber. I remember being at school at the time and when it became dark the scholars hovered around the teacher for protection. They had a right to be frightened for it was a fearful time.

The names of the inhabitants of East Rushford school district were Wilson Gordon and his sons Thomas and Orson, Ziba Forsath, "Deacon" Lewis, father of Mrs. M. C. White, Randolph Heald, Samuel Capen, Milton McCall, Nelson McCall, Harvey Crocker, Mr. Rathburn, Mr. Shields, Ezekiel Gillett, Lowell Wright, John Daball, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Delano, "Negro" Hill, Edwin Burr, Mr. Relya and others that came in later. It was one of the most noted manufacturing places in the county. James McCall built the first gristmill. Later it was owned by Grimard, Thomas



Harvey Crocker

## Reminiscences

Gordon and others. "Deacon" Lewis ran a sawmill and bucket factory, Milton McCall a linseed oil factory just above the bridge that goes up to the Crocker Brothers' farm, Amos Stone and Company a foundry, and Wm. Gordon and Sons a carding machine for wool. They also had one in Roderick Bannister's old gristmill at the Gorge. Later Avery Washburn joined the company which was a valuable one for the town and county. John Daball ran a door, sash and blind factory, Asa Worden and brother a tannery, Daniel and James Haynes a furniture shop. Nelson McCall kept a general store and postoffice, Samuel Thomas and Alexander a blacksmith shop, and there was also a hotel. Church services were well attended and the school was good. Altogether East Rushford was a lively burgh.

The first settlers lived in log houses till after sawmills were built. Then some of them built frame houses. In many cases it was years before they were completed. They generally built log fences at first. Afterwards they built rail fences out of pine, oak, cherry or ash. It took the best timber to split into rails.

## REMINISCENCES

Mary Smith, Delhi, Ohio

OUR first coming to Rushford was in 1839. My father died in August two years before, leaving my mother with eight little children, the oldest but eighteen years old. My mother was still a young woman. She wanted to get a small farm for a home for us, and as Allegany was quite a new country and land much cheaper than in Madison County, she wrote to her brother, Judge Abram Lyon, to get her



## Reminiscences

such a house as she wanted, and she would send the money to pay for it. Rushford had just been visited by the Mormon elders and the home on the hill, that H. K. White owned at one time, was owned and occupied by a Mormon elder and his family. Uncle bought it for us.

Rushford was settled by excellent business men. Judge McCall and his sons settled at East Rushford, and the five Gordon brothers settled north and south of the village. The Gordons were Methodists and did much to build up the Methodist Church. John Gordon's home was in the village. He was not a Methodist but his son, Walter Gordon, became a Methodist minister. The other brothers were excellent workers in the church. Judge McCall and his family were Baptists. The Caneadea Creek ran south of the village and east to the Genesee river. There were excellent water privileges along its course. Judge McCall built a flouring mill between the two hills which come down almost perpendicularly to the creek. Just below, and on the same side of the creek, Nelson McCall built his nice residence and dry goods store; a little farther down Deacon Lewis built a chair factory and furniture shop; on the opposite side of the road the men employed had their homes. Milton McCall had his home on the bluff with steps leading up to it.

The wild romantic scenery attracted my attention very much when we went there. The creek wound around the hill where we lived and crossed the road a little below it. A schoolhouse was built below and towards the creek. My eldest sister, Mehitable Smith, taught the first summer after we moved there. She went to Lewiston to live with my uncle and came home only on visits. In the summer of 1842 my sister Sarah married Fordyce Gordon, son of James Gordon. Judge McCall's home was at the foot of the hill



## Reminiscences

across the creek from our home. They were very kind neighbors. His son-in-law, Elder Miner, was pastor of the Baptist Church. My mother and sisters were members of that church. About this time I left Rushford to go to Lewiston to school. My uncle was trustee of the Academy there and it was one of the best schools in that section. Then my mother needed me at home and I came back to Rushford. Elder Miner had left and Elder Wardner, a student, took his place. They called all ministers "Elder" in those days. The year before I went to Lewiston, Elder Miller, a Second Adventist minister, had delivered a course of lectures on the prophecies and decided that the world would be destroyed in 1843. That year had been remarkable for revivals all over the country and the church of Rushford was visited by a celebrated revivalist named Burchard who with his wife held a three weeks' meeting in the Presbyterian Church. The church being too small, they soon removed to the Baptist and Methodist churches where they held meetings alternately. Mr. Burchard was a powerful speaker. I remember one evening when the meeting was in the Methodist Church a young man named Edward Pratt, who had lately come from the East and who was not at all religious, became converted; he stepped out into the aisle and said, "I am determined to seek religion and am willing that all in this house should know it." His fearless words had a great effect on the young people who were halting between two opinions and many came out on the side of the Lord. During this meeting Mrs. Burchard formed a society among the best young women of the town. Aurora Thompson and Achsah Griffin (now Mrs. Champlain of Cuba) were directors and I was appointed secretary. Our meetings were held monthly at each other's homes. They were designed to refine the mind and improve the manners. It was called

the Mutual Improvement Society. We continued our meetings for three years.

After my return to Rushford we thought best to remove to Rushford village. Winthrop Young had just built him a new house\* opposite the hotel his father, Uncle Cephas Young, kept. Winthrop exchanged it for our home on the hill and we moved into the village in the spring of 1843. I took the school west of the village. The wages were small, only six shillings a week, but I added to it by sewing for the people I boarded with, making more by my needle than by teaching. Every other Saturday I could spend at home. How glad I was when it came around. I liked my home in Rushford. My brother-in-law planted maples in front of the house and I planted flowers to make it pleasant. Nearly opposite, Mr. Truman Swift had a dry goods store. His residence was a little ways from the corner, on Center Street. Mr. Griffin had a dry goods store on the corner. Mr. Hyde had a jewelry store and Mr. Howe a harness shop on Center Street. There was quite a strife between Upper and Lower Streets as to which should exceed the other in business. About the time we left the farm, Nelson McCall sold his place in East Rushford, moved his business to Rushford and occupied the store which A. M. Taylor afterwards owned. His family at first lived on the upper floor but he soon built his residence across the creek, next his store. Just beyond him Mr. Lathrop, who kept a hardware store on the corner of Center Street, built his residence.

The village grew rapidly in every direction. Mr. William Gordon, who lived on the corner at Gordonville, built a wool-carding and cloth-dressing factory, using the water power of the creek below him. His two oldest sons,

\*Now owned by Mrs. Susan Abbott.

## Reminiscences

Samuel and Jedediah, built their nice residences and carried on the business. Southwest of his house, across the creek, Mr. Gordon built the second flouring mill in Rushford. They employed me to make the bolting cloth for the mill, as it required nice sewing. Mr. Washburn, from the East, came to Rushford about this time and taught our school. In 1842 he with the Gordons carried on the business in the wool-carding establishment. He married William Gordon's oldest daughter. They afterwards removed to Topeka, Kansas. We had our home in the village thirteen years. My younger brother, Mr. Charles G. Smith, was employed in Samuel White's foundry. At that time droves of fat cattle were driven to the eastern cities. James and Luther Gordon got my brother to go with them to Philadelphia. He showed a talent for business. My oldest brother got him a situation in Chicago and he became a leading wholesale druggist in that city. Mr. Young sold his hotel to Mr. Parker, and moved to his residence, the house next to ours. Our next neighbor on the north was Mrs. Thirds. She had a millinery shop and her husband a tailor shop. The next house was Quincy White's, then Samuel White's, and beyond that was the Globe Hotel; opposite this was Mr. Boardman's store and the postoffice; next was Mr. Joel Griffin's residence; opposite was his brother Oramel's store and house. His daughter Achsah was married June 2, 1846, to Marshall Champlain, a lawyer in Cuba. There was a large wedding party of the friends that formed the Mutual Improvement Society. I attended and heard her sing the "Bride's Farewell."

My mother had a severe illness, a lung fever, while living in Rushford. Mrs. H. K. White watched over her one night. The doctor in Rushford gave her up so we had a council, a physician thirty miles away and old Dr. Allen.

## Reminiscences

We waited for their decision. They said there were ninety-nine chances for her to die and one to live. She improved that one and lived twenty years after. We all loved our kind, gentle mother and could not bear to give her up. The Rushford people were very kind. Elder Wardner had left the Baptist Church and was succeeded by Elder Harris whose wife was Elder Fuller's daughter and sister of Mrs. Mason of Rushford. Scarcely a day passed without their visiting her, and the village people were very kind. Mrs. H. K. White was my dearest friend. We enjoyed reading the same books and talking them over. She was a decidedly intellectual woman. After the Academy was built I attended half of the first term and then took the Upper Street village school and taught it four months. The people were so well pleased with the school that they hired me another month. I taught two weeks and gave it up, as my work at home was too hard. My brother Joseph from Chicago coming home, took me to Lewiston for a trip. Thirteen years had passed and my four brothers bought the old home on the hill back again and we exchanged our village home for a small farm in New Hudson, which we sold afterwards to Mr. Taylor of Taylor Hill. In 1857 we moved back to our first home. One night I saw a great blaze from the west window in our sleeping room. Miss Cooley, afterwards my brother Ancus' wife, was with me and we walked up to the village to see the fire. The Young's Hotel was burned down and a blacksmith shop and wagon shop just below it. In 1860 we exchanged our home on the hill for a home in Cuba. The Erie Railroad had been built and this drew the business away from Rushford. The first generation had nearly all passed away. After the railroad was built, Nelson McCall sold his store to Deacon Hapgood whose daughter Lucia was the mother of Frank

## Reminiscences

Higgins who became Governor of New York. My mother's home was in Rushford twenty years.

### RECOLLECTIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

Helen M. Judd

FROM the sombre light of age we look back fondly upon the brightness of earlier days, it being a law of nature that bright things are better seen in gloom.

I speak only of things that *were and have gone*. My earliest recollections of Rushford life are rather vague, for the child is careless of surroundings which only shape themselves as years are added. Everything is taken for granted, the world and all that surrounds us. Ego is the center of this mundane stage and all is *for us*. Life and people and the town do not interest us and if only a *few* memories are recorded here of the long ago they may interest a trifle.

Outside of the family life my first vivid memories are of school, a select school taught by Miss Margaret Boardman in the chamber of her father's general store and postoffice. A choice few were there introduced to the alphabet, reading, spelling and a dust or faint odor of arithmetic.

How to show that Rushford possessed originality and invention and almost threatened to forestall the ingenuity of the great Froebel, the father of the Kindergarten, I will say that whenever the day was rainy we pupils employed the recess time in making paper baskets such as "My Lady" serves the dessert or confections in at her fashionable dinners. We also made Lucifer matches. Sticks prepared in a block by being split the proper size, we broke off and dipped in the igniting paste and carefully laid side by side upon a paper to dry; when dry we put them in boxes ready



## Recollections and Characteristics

for disposal. Then we sang songs, marched, and were taught to walk and stand properly. We were taught to draw angles; farther than that the teacher had no artistic learning.

Having begun with this store as a landmark, I will mention a few others that are gone. Diagonally opposite, on the east side, was a tavern, long since removed, managed or mis-managed, as the case may be, by Mr. Knickerbocker. I have little recollection except that personally he did not resemble the historic Diedrich.

On the other corner diagonally opposite stood the dry goods store belonging to Mr. Oramel Griffin. I never remember being inside but thought everything that the world knew could be purchased there. A few scattering dwellings were along that side of the street and near the slope of the hill stood the Young's Hotel. They didn't call it inn or tavern for the French word more fitly denoted its great ability to serve the public to rest, refreshment and the "needful beverages." No wave of temperance had penetrated those conservative regions then. Cephas Young, Uncle Cephas as he was familiarly called, had formerly been the landlord, but landlord or not he spent most of his time there "taking mine ease in mine inn," and was a merry companion to the others who spent their leisure there.

From the postoffice corner west, on the south side of the street, another landmark disappears, the old Methodist Church, which could no longer hold the flock and was moved down the street nearly opposite the Baptist Church and used for a musical school. The eccentric professor, his spectacled eyes always to the front, I remember well. When the proslavery trouble was in Kansas, he was heard to exclaim, "O, it's all Kansas, Kansas. What do I care for Kansas? Just

## Reminiscences

give me plenty of music pupils and when the time comes I'll vote all right."

Nearly opposite, just east of the Baptist Church, was the grocery store of Clark McCall. I think everyone will remember the sign painted on the side under the cornice, "Paints, Oils and Dye Stuffs." What good paint it must have been to endure so long. Mr. McCall possessed a large flock of children (there was no race suicide then) and as they were play-fellows, the majority of the children gave their patronage to the store in the shape of slates, pencils, candy, licorice and nuts. The next building that I recollect on that side of the street was a long, low building containing stores and shops which has given place to another; also the store and shop owned by Mr. Lathrop which was replaced by a new one that in time disappeared by fire.

That side of the street and the street running north were not much different from their present appearance only there seemed to be more *life* there then. The street leading west, on the right hand side was nearly as it is today but the other side was far different. The store kept by Mr. Bates Hapgood stood on the corner just east of the bridge or between bridges; its ghost stands there yet. Beyond the bridge was the great elm tree, in its majesty then, and one house and the schoolhouse of district No. 2. There may be those present who there received their first instruction, and some attended who there absorbed all the school education of their lives. The pupils were many and of ascending ages, and I remember the girls in summer sought for their playground the cemetery's sacred haunts among the myrtle and the ponderous cherry trees. If they had any particular ideas concerning the fitness of things, they thought the weary were resting in celestial realms. At this time the street lead-

## Recollections and Characteristics

ing south contained six houses and a barn on one side and four houses and a barn on the other.

In recalling those times and bringing judgment to bear on them, I see that the inhabitants were individually and collectively a fair representation of Uncle Sam. Physically they were inclined to be slim instead of portly, and were invariably slow of speech. The men loved to sit at the grocery door at evening and tell tales and with cork screw inquisitiveness learn their neighbor's business. Under the aspect of simplicity they were wonderfully shrewd at a bargain and quick to discover the "main chance." Yet when charity was solicited they were open-handed and willing. No village could surpass them in their care for the needy.

At that time what were called "amusements" were few. The arrival and departure of the stage elicited interest; a traveler with a trunk was interesting, where they hailed from and their destination. A crowd rushed out to listen to a foreign missionary lecture. Once in a while a temperance lecturer came and anti-slavery speakers were also listened to. I remember Frederick Douglass lecturing, in 1846, I think, to an enthusiastic audience in the Baptist Church. Once in a while there came a concert by the Hutchinson Family, or other traveling companies, but a "theater play" was an unknown quantity. A sleight-of-hand performance followed by a magic lantern exhibition would fill our very souls with joy, and all the boys of the neighborhood would be "doing tricks" for the next six months. The coming of the circus was, to the youth of the town, the acme of delight, and many a boy determined to seek renown, when he was older, in the circus ring. If there were animals they had a crowd in attendance, for parents, you know, went *just to please the children*. Yet when it arrived and the procession passed, no one had the hardihood to go out on the

## Reminiscences

streets to view it. I once asked, after seeing crowds represented on the bills, if people ever went out on the street like that, dressed in their holiday attire. The reply was, "Not by any means; that was only an advertising scheme." The yearly campmeeting came to the young as an amusement, for I suspect they went more to witness the intense religious excitement than to hear the Gospel.

It was a great event when the town clock was purchased and Rushford was very proud of it and justly so. Directing attention to the clock reminds me of the old custom of the tolling of the bell when any person died and their age was counted off by strokes. What a terrible feeling it always gave the children; they would group together, wild eyed and sober, and realize the sorrow and grimness of the death presence.

One pronounced peculiarity of the people was a division of religious belief in families. A man would drive into town, turn and leave his wife and daughter at the Baptist Church and, accompanied by his sons, go on to the Methodist Church. Another father with his two daughters would go to the Methodist Church for spiritual comfort, the mother and son and daughter seek the consolation of the Presbyterian. Another husband would seek the shelter of the broad gauge Universalist while wife and children would sit under Baptist teachings; and so on among many more through the speeding years. They saw their neighbor's creed kindly, but believed their own bore better fruits. These good people have all long ago sailed across the unknown sea to the "Blessed Isles" where they have found that both are right, perhaps.

In the stirring days of the founding of telegraph lines we had a prophet, Chauncey McDonald, who said, "I have faith to think that we shall yet talk by word of mouth and

## Recollections and Characteristics

have our streets lighted by electricitv." He lived to see his prophecy fulfilled; he foretold better than he knew. Another prophet said he thought that we would yet subsist on the elements, but that hasn't arrived yet. Still the scientists are finding so much poison in what we considered harmless that we may come to it sooner or later.

There were some very eccentric people among us. On the west street in the solitary house on the left, near the great elm tree dwelt a woman, not old then but thinking herself so, who struggled with the world, and the school children in particular. She imagined that both were her enemies and that both would eventually beat her in the struggle. She magnified the childish pranks and considered them insults, and when she could capture a mischievous boy she made her resistance known by an application of the switch or omnipresent slipper. Boys were no different then than they are now; they only laughed and jeered while she mentally consigned them to the prison or the gallows, and yet two of these boys became ministers of the gospel. The boys considered her a great amusement.

There was a man in town noted for his long prayers. One morning the hired man unnoticed slipped out of doors before prayers. There he met a man who wished to see his employer immediately. The hired man said, "You can't; he is at prayers." The man said, "How long, do you suppose, before I can see him?" "Well," said the hired man, "I'll see." He stepped to the window and listened. "Well," he said, returning, "He has just got to the heathen and he will be here in ten minutes." Another man gloried in religious phrases and exclamations. He one morning entered the store exclaiming, "Hallelujah to the Lamb! Give me half a pound of your two shilling tea."

At one time one of the churches was agitating the ques-



## Reminiscences

tion of buying a chandelier. A man said, "What's the use of spending your money for such a thing? When you get it there is no one here that knows enough *to play on it.*" He was the man who said he played the bugle for his own *conversion*. When Mr. Lincoln was nominated for President a man inquired, "Who might this Abraham Lincoln be? I never read of him in history." Another wondered what they did at a caucus, "Did they sing?" One strong-minded woman went out to dinner and supper leaving her mate to pick up his meals. When she returned he suggested supper. "O, my dear," said she, "you just go and pop you some corn and I will get you a fine breakfast in the morning." He obeyed.

When the Academy was started, preparations were made for a new life. Everything was changed. It was truly a Renaissance; life and action everywhere; new energy in business; a general "fin de siecle" pervading. To the young people each day was a holiday, no matter how strenuous their tasks. The curtain was lifted; we saw way down the vista of the future, with hope our only spiritual possession, the Valley of Diamonds, the learning we had longed for. Those happy days and enthusiastic pupils soon passed along to make room for the entering crowd, soon to be scattered to meet their fortune. Some went to the Civil War; others to the many professions; some to the Legislature or to Congress; some to be Governors of States; some to the camp or the sea; and others to the courts of foreign countries. The women to be teachers, musicians, artists, poets, and journalists, wives and mothers. And now over fifty years have cast their gleams of brightness and clouds of gloom; comparatively few teachers or pupils remain and nearly all these have wandered to seek their homes far away from the Alma Mater.

## Reminiscences of Rushford

“And some we knew, the loveliest and the best,  
That from the vintage rolling Time has prest,  
Have drank their cup, a round or two before,  
And one by one crept silent from the door.”

### REMINISCENCES OF RUSHFORD

C. M. Damon

NOT being able to respond to invitation to attend the Centennial Anniversary and feeling that one's native place has a claim upon those to whom she has given birth, education and social and religious opportunities—all those impulses which in after years make one worth all he is worth to himself and society—the writer cheerfully responds, and with a sense of gratitude, to the call for reminiscences of early life in Rushford. By the way, the very name is held dear through all the years of wandering, almost sacred whenever heard or seen in print, “If I forget thee, Rushford, let my right hand forget her cunning.”

My recollection goes back just about sixty years when I first “saw the elephant,” from the second floor front of the “Tarbell House,” as it came down the street from Colonel Hardy's in a circus parade. “Aunt Lavinia” had taken me across the road, perhaps from Selah Root's in whose chair factory the old town clerk, L. C. Kimball, my mother's brother, worked in those days. My birthplace was eighty or a hundred rods toward Rushford from Hardy's Corners, on a farm<sup>1</sup> then owned by our staid old Methodist blacksmith, Israel Thompson, grandson of one of early Methodism's most unique characters, Rev. Benjamin Abbott. Later, for ten years, our home<sup>2</sup> was a half mile south of the

<sup>1</sup> The Belknap farm.

<sup>2</sup> Geo. Tapp's farm.

## Reminiscences

Corners. Beyond us, on one side, was Thomas Burns<sup>3</sup> who early went to Wisconsin, then a very new region, and on the other Amizi Clark<sup>4</sup> whose son Fred, one of our best playmates, later made a successful escape from a rebel prison in the Civil War. Toward Rushford we passed Isaac Noble,<sup>5</sup> Enoch Richardson,<sup>6</sup> Stephen Hardy,<sup>7</sup> Alpheus Wiltse<sup>8</sup> and Kingsbury Howe<sup>9</sup> who moved to Iowa. Then came Wm. Kingsbury,<sup>10</sup> one of whose little boys of those days was lately a merchant of Rushford, Mr. Warren<sup>11</sup> by the creek, where our old schoolmate and warm friend "Bert"—A. W. Warren—now lives, who used to crack butternuts for us and race around the old sawmill, climbing its posts and beams like a cat and with Nathan and all the school boys make a swimming pond of the old milldam. Then were Messrs. Benham,<sup>12</sup> Armstrong,<sup>13</sup> Grimard,<sup>14</sup> Robt. English,<sup>15</sup> Belknap,<sup>16</sup> Robt. Morrow,<sup>17</sup> Chamberlain,<sup>18</sup> Phettyplace,<sup>19</sup> and Judge Lyon<sup>20</sup> and son Eben, the latter father of Martin and A. J., whose fine gray team used to stand upright by the church steps while waiting for the sleigh to be filled on a

<sup>3</sup> Truman Pratt's farm.

<sup>4</sup> Fayette Adams' farm.

<sup>5</sup> C. C. Gould's farm.

<sup>6</sup> On the Corner.

<sup>7</sup> Addis Thayer's farm.

<sup>8</sup> Christian Belknap's farm.

<sup>9</sup> Evan James' farm.

<sup>10</sup> Geo. Kingsbury's farm.

<sup>11</sup> A. L. Warren's farm.

<sup>12</sup> John Haynes' farm.

<sup>13</sup> Lucian Pratt's farm.

<sup>14</sup> Ackerly Company's farm.

<sup>15</sup> Chas. English's farm.

<sup>16</sup> Jas. Wilson's farm.

<sup>17</sup> John Lyon's and Walter Howard's farms.

<sup>18</sup> Chas. Baker's farm.

<sup>19</sup> Mrs. Mary Grinnel's farm.

<sup>20</sup> D. M. Seeley's farm.

## Reminiscences of Rushford

winter Sabbath. Next on the right was Uncle Tom Pratt<sup>21</sup> or more reverently Rev. Thomas Pratt, opposite the Gordon gristmill, an old landmark, and on through Gordonville there lived Rev. William Gordon—Uncle Bill—respected, retired minister and business man, Morton Pratt (who claimed, "These boys who never did anything wrong don't know anything about preaching; it takes a devil to make a preacher"), Jed. Gordon and Avery Washburne of the woolen mill, my carpenter uncle, Martin Damon, who said, "What's worth doing is worth doing well," and others. Farther on was the shoe shop of Mr. Doland whose sign read,

"I work for those who pay the best,  
And when I've time I serve the rest.  
I've trusted many to my sorrow,  
Pay today, I'll trust tomorrow."

Entering the village by the lower street, among many others were the homes of Squire Brooks, "Old Dr. Stacy," who told Rachel Metcalf the devil never told the truth but once, that was when he said, "All that a man hath will he give for his life" (and that was not true) and Squire Hapgood whose little grandson, the late Governor Higgins, called him "My Pa," and the genial, gentlemanly O. T. Higgins "My Father." There was M. D. Higgins who sold a woman some eggs in the other's store. She started off and then called back, "Are they good?" "I guess so," was his reply, "if not, bring them back and I'll pay you all they are worth." There was the Methodist parsonage and Lawyer Laning\* and Isaiah Lathrop. Turning up street, we passed between the Lathrop stores and Griffin's, between Thompson's and Howser's blacksmith shops, past the Baptist Church, as now to the Methodist Church or beyond.

<sup>21</sup> H. B. Ackerley's farm.

\*R. Bonham Laning.

## Reminiscences

Returning to our Hardy's Corners home: Those were the days of clearing land, of loggings, piling and burning brush and logs, of driving oxen with crotch drags between the stumps of clearings, of crooked rail fences, of hunting cows by sound of bell in wood lots, of shivering with fear in the dusk of evening because of neighborhood talk of a panther having been seen, days of ditching to drain off swamps and ponds, days of barn raisings where the heavy bents framed from trees hauled from the woods were raised with pike poles, of corn huskings, apple parings, spelling schools and the like. The old schoolhouse with its high wall seat, behind a row of high desks with perpendicular fronts and a low narrow seat for us little ones who of course deserved nothing better (?), circling two sides and an end of the room, stood on the township and county line half in Allegany County and half in Cattaraugus. There, with its slab with four rough legs for a recitation seat, Kimber Smith taught and DeBias Worthington with wonderfully sharp ears and "eyes in the back of his head" as it seemed to us, and Esther Woods whose jingle of merry song and lively questions would put order, life, and enthusiasm for study in a school in two minutes. There the writer, at three years of age, had his first tuition by Christiann Wilmarth who still lives within a few steps from where he was born, the respected mother of Ellis Belknap. There, or in the new schoolhouse placed on the Rushford side of the line, Amanda Squires of Farmersville, later Mrs. L. A. Root of Rushford, gave him his first thorough training, at about seven years of age, in Colburn's "Mental Arithmetic," and there also Robert Norton of the Pine Apple Cheese Factory, later a prominent Presbyterian minister, dying in Cincinnati past eighty, visited the school as superintendent and talked to us children so excellently as to make a lifelong impression.



## Reminiscences of Rushford

Once a year Brother D. S. Damon and myself had the liberty of a visit to Grandfather Kimball's. He was of Puritan descent, a Massachusetts family in New Hampshire, later in Central New York and coming to Rushford from Catharine, Schuyler County, in 1820. He kept store for a time and then located near the county line northwest of town. Our road turned north from Wm. Kingsbury's over a rough corduroy through a swamp, past Uncle Johnny Moore's and later the Tapp's and Agett's, past Kimber Smith's and his father's and Micah Hall's on through woods to our destination. A little farther west lived Hosea Persons, and at one time Wm. Babbitt. After staying over night and having a taste of grandmother's peaches, a great luxury, and a visit with Uncles Andrew and Addison, we went east by Nahum Ames's, down past Norman Beecher's and others and then "cross lots" down the hill to Alonzo Damon's on the "Creek" or Buffalo Road. West and northwest of him toward Fairview where Elijah Lyman and sons Alonzo and Densmore, Columbus Ely and John Hill. Aunt Roxy Damon made cheese in their powerful home-made press, the whole process a great curiosity to us, and the well-kept farm, thrifty buildings, excellent stock, vigorous sugarbush and good orchard, with a red sweet apple as a special treat to us, made our visit with our cousins very enjoyable. Returning home the third day past the road leading to the Gordons, Fletcher, Bowen and "Uncle Jim," and the Metcalfs, by Alonzo Farwell, Gardner George and Eliab Benjamin, whose sons were our intimate friends, we passed through the village and on, a walk of about seven miles, enough for the grit and health of little fellows as we then were.

Among suitable recollections of those days should be mentioned Elder Simpson's trip on horseback past our place soliciting subscriptions for building the Academy, which

## Reminiscences

became under the administration of Prof. Sayles one of the best and best known academies of the State. Many persons of marked ability and influence in public life were educated within its walls, possibly chief among them the well known Senator Teller of Colorado. Father contributed according to his limited ability and worked it out with his team on the basement, and later moved near enough to get the benefit for his family. Speaking of Elder Simpson, one among many able pastors of the Baptist Church, his influence was marked for good. He was public spirited, enthusiastic, evangelistic, capable. He was thoroughly alive to the interests of the church, a reformer who counted not his reputation dear unto himself, so that he might stem the tide of worldliness in church or community. He dared to make enemies, and perhaps that is a principal reason for this commendation from a Methodist standpoint. He was worthy to be loved for the enemies he made.

The educational zeal of the citizens was commendable. Frequent lectures or lecture courses with such speakers as Horace Mann, the father of American education, Horace Greeley, the great American journalist, Frederick Douglass, the marvelous colored orator and leader of his race who with his thunderous voice roared, "They say the negro's *voice* is feeble," together with singing schools and conventions gave valuable opportunity for both entertainment and improvement. Among occasional lectures should be noted those of Moran on astronomy, Bement on Oriental travel, and Professor Sayles on science and philosophy. Rushford had many strong men in that day and many a family branching out in a way to do Roosevelt's heart good. Think of the Gordons, Woodses, Pecks, Persons, Benjamins, McCalls, Hardys, Taylors and others. No race suicide there.

The churches were strong in members and in the marked

## Reminiscences of Rushford

ability of many of them, intellectual, financial and social, and compared favorably with others in the ability of the pastorate and qualities of spiritual life. There was much interest in the Sabbath Schools, encouraged by annual celebrations (wiser in their instructions than in the over-feasting). Pious parents gave attention to family prayers and children were required to commit the Scripture lesson to memory. The Sabbath had not then been demoralized by the running of railroad trains, publishing and hawking of newspapers, and other corrupting influences of a European rationalistic and skeptical type. It awaited the violence of the Civil War to begin this fearful downward trend.

As to patriotism, Rushford was at least abreast of her sister towns throughout the State and the loyal part of the nation. She contributed her quota to the grand moral uprising which saved Kansas from becoming a slave State. There, in the wild excitement of the John Brown days, Johnny Stewart was murdered by the Missouri border men, and his mother's brain reeled under the shock. Randolph Worthington was by his side a few minutes after he was shot, and later was on a Missouri River boat in the presence of the ruffian who did the deed. And there, during the war, Jimmie Prime was shot by Quantrell's gang when they sacked Lawrence. And as to what was done when the dreadful clash of bloody war came on we give elsewhere a striking sketch in a private letter of the time. (See page 307.) And if a record of conflict and casualties of the noble army of Rushford martyrs for freedom, is desired, why does not my old friend and schoolmate the capable and qualified Rev. H. C. Woods write up the history? He was in the thick of the fight and lost his excellent mother by an accidental result of battle. Were I to elaborate on this line, I should desire to call attention to Gilbert DeLaMatyr's "dark

## Reminiscences

lantern" lecture in the little church in his father's neighborhood, toward Cuba, during the Fremont campaign of '56, to the thrills of pain and dark forboding when Nathan Warren rode up to our barnyard at chore time and called out, "Johnnie Stewart has been killed by the border ruffians," to the anguish of the first real sense of war when my brothers came from town one evening after I had gone to bed and called from the chamber door, "There has been a great battle (the first Bull Run) and John Bishop and Albert Babbitt are killed." O the heart sickening horror! And then to think of our beloved Warren Persons starving to death in Andersonville! About the same time my brother Albert died of wounds in hospital! These are some of the items that continually thrilled and killed until the final heart-sick shock of Lincoln's assassination was called out by a passing neighbor, and we felt as though there was one dead in every home.

But I should not be true to the deepest elements of my own life and the strongest influences of early association did I not particularize and enlarge somewhat more on the memories of the Methodist Church in which I was raised. Among pastors I remember the names of McEwen, Cheney, Shelling noted for eloquence, Roberts, most scholarly of all Hunt, afterward one of the most prominent names of the denomination, being connected with the Book Rooms in New York (I slept with him one night at the house of his brother during my first pastorate in northern Iowa), and Milo Scott, a giant in size and stature, under whose administration I was taken into the church and baptized with Edwin Weaver, Frank Warren and others. Milo Scott was a man we children delighted to see drive up to our home. In his family there was no need for liquor, tobacco, tea or coffee. Jason G. Miller was the pastor who held the



## Reminiscences of Rushford

great revival of 1857-1858, one of the most powerful I have ever known. Earlier in life Miller had been a professor and presumably a possessor of entire holiness, "the peculiar despositum of Methodism," and one who has ever truly entered into that blessed experience is hardly likely to lose the savor of its influence. The meeting began at East Rushford where some very powerful conversions occurred and then was brought to Rushford where it went forward in great power. It was a winter of almost universal revivings throughout the country. It was the winter of the starting of the celebrated Fulton Street prayer meeting in New York where the noted pugilist "Awful" (Orville) Gardner was converted. The preaching was with tremendous energy and power and the testimonies of the converts were convincing in demonstration of the reality of sins forgiven and a changed heart. What a flood of names comes to mind of those then brought in! Among them George Worthington, Charles English, Allen Burr, the VanDusen girls, Jenny Jagers, Nelson Kingsbury and wife, Warren Persons and many, many more. The church became noted for Miller's Conference, a regular circuit of outlying church or school house appointments filled by ten or twelve local preachers and exhorters.

Miller's sandy hair stood up straight all over his head. His wrinkled face was emphasized by remarkable scowls in preaching and with a peculiar twist of his head and drawl of voice, without oratory, art or affectation, the center shots of awakening, convicting truth would pierce the joints of armor and find a lodgment in the heart of saint or sinner. His introductory sermon followed the slow, peculiar reading of Acts 10 for a Scripture lesson. Cornelius said to Peter after explaining the occasion of sending for him, "Now, therefore are we all here present before God, to



## Reminiscences

hear all things that are commanded thee of God." With out looking up, head tipped to one side, and with the peculiar drawl referred to, he commented, "Much—better—than—to come stringing along in—during—the reading of—the second—hymn." Here was due notice served to be on hand in time and to expect to hear not man's word but God's. And so it was at every turn, class meeting, prayer meeting, Sabbath School, or preaching service, until we were in a flame of revival. As one said of his very awkward preaching, "His sermons stand up on legs and when he's done you can see them." The salient points were clear, forcible and impressive. The writer, then about twelve years old, probably remembers more of his sermons, after fifty years, than those of any other person he has ever heard, unless it be B. T. Roberts, whose forcible, lawyer-like style was also very impressive.

### A TYPICAL LOVE FEAST.

The early custom of Methodism to admit members by quarterly tickets, which enabled pastors to quietly set aside those who were disposed to depart from her Scriptural rules and customs in apparel or other worldly practices and pleasures, had dropped out of use, but the departure in our part of the Conference was not so prominent as farther north. There was great love for the church and interest in spiritual worship. Our members lived in every direction within a radius of five miles. But such a distance, where there was a dairy of cows or certainly a variety of stock to make much choring, and children to prepare, called for early rising and brisk work to reach town before nine o'clock, especially in winter. On ordinary occasions if the team was before the door at nine o'clock and children ready to be loaded in, we were all right, but now we must be in our

## Reminiscences of Rushford

places by nine o'clock sharp. After the present church was built the love feast was held below in what came to be called the Lecture Room. The Quarterly Meeting had begun with preaching Friday evening, Quarterly Conference and perhaps preaching Saturday afternoon, and preaching in the evening again. Sunday was the great day when the Presiding Elder was to preach and administer the Lord's Supper. But the feast of joyous brotherly communion and loving fellowship commenced at nine o'clock. There was the Scripture reading, a hymn, and prayer. Bread and water as tokens of a fellowship meal were passed around, not of Divine ordinance but a prudential arrangement for spiritual growth, and another informal hymn or song was started. The spirit of the occasion must be kept in mind. It was not, strictly speaking, a public service. It was a family gathering of those who had been saved and blessed by the offices of the church and whose hearts were already warm with gratitude and love for the brethren through whose instrumentality such good had come. If any wished to criticize and find fault with the egotism of the church their place was outside. We were here to "boast in the Lord" and in all the confidence and privacy of full fellowship talk out our love for each other and for Methodism—the Methodist Church. If Father Metcalf who needed not a book from which to read the Scriptures, an old pioneer preacher who loved "the old paths," was present, he might be the first to speak. But probably it was "Uncle Bill" as Father Gordon was affectionately called. If not it was Father Goff sitting up in the end of one of the seats by the side of the pulpit, tall, angular, bald-headed, full of fire and fervor, who once got so blessed at a meeting at East Rushford that he forgot his horse and walked home, leaving it tied there, and never thought of it till he went out to

## Reminiscences

feed it next morning. He would tell of his conversion, his joy in the Lord, his love for the brethren and the church, his near prospect of Heaven, of having more friends over on the other side than here below, and feeling that

“His raptured soul would gladly stay  
In such a frame as this,  
And sit and sing herself away  
To everlasting bliss.”

Sitting down, perhaps, amid shouts and praises of the congregation; as they began to catch fire, Clark Woods would start up some appropriate hymn to fan the fervor of feeling and the meeting was well under motion. Then Aunt Nancy Woods, of sterling integrity, an old pioneer, one of the very first in the settlement of the town and held in high esteem for her works' sake, would jump up and run away with the meeting. And there was Avery Washburn, most beloved and successful of Sabbath School superintendents, still living in Topeka, Kansas, past ninety years of age, and Israel Thompson, whose reverential prayer invariably included, “O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!” And there was Isaac Stone whose corpulent body would always shake with quiet, subdued, but hearty laughter under the influence of the Holy Spirit, after testimony, and Sister Stone so gentle and sympathetic toward the “lambs of the flock,” and Uncle John Worthington, blessed man, whose vehement, fiery exhortation far exceeded in effect those of any ordinary preacher, and Lowell Farwell who used to say humbly in leading class, “Brethren, I wish I was a better man.” There was Levi Metcalf whose warm grasp of the hand was a lasting benediction, who delighted to encourage the boys, who felt the call of God, to get a start by taking them around to a schoolhouse appointment and

## Reminiscences of Rushford

giving them a breaking in, and Cornelia, still living, and Uncle Ely Woods who sometimes got "on his high heeled shoes" in testimony, and A. W. E. Damon with voice husky and choking with emotion as he spoke of his love for the church in which he had been powerfully converted at nineteen years of age and in which his wife and five children were joined with him in fellowship. And again there was Pluma Persons, warm friend of my mother, and Arminda Peck, and Mary Ann Lyon and her mother, and Aunt Maria Benjamin who made such a record of Sabbath School attendance down to old age. But how shall I go on to name the scores of those waiting for an opportunity to speak? There were converts with faces all aglow with consciousness of Christ within, ready to tell of the witness of the spirit, of the temptation and conflict but also of the joy and the victory. A few more should be specially named. Allen Burr, a school teacher with vigorous mind, had but one leg. He stood on one foot and a crutch and told what God had done for his soul. "I was three days seeking God and that was just three days too long" Speaking privately with a Spiritualist in Farmersville who was trying to explain spiritual things from that standpoint, Allen responded, "You don't know any more about it than my old cane!" He became the husband of Minerva Bullock, later Mrs. M. E. Roberts, the most prominent Methodist woman of Nebraska. In about one year Allen went triumphantly home to Heaven, and as Minerva rode home from the grave on her lonely seat a comforting voice within said, "I am not alone for Jesus is right here with me on the seat." There was Warren Persons saying with peculiar emphasis, "Brethren, I—do—not—consider—that I am to keep my religion but—that—my religion—is—to—keep—me" Some older heads remarked that he would probably find he would have to keep



## Reminiscences

it, if it kept him. How blessed to know that it so kept him that he was able to send home a testimony from amid the horrors of Andersonville, in the near approach of certain death by starvation. And there was the converted Catholic girl, Jennie Jagers, who testified and exhorted with such power that when one said, "That girl ought to have a license to exhort," Elijah Metcalf, himself lately reclaimed, replied, "She has one already!" Gustavus Noble had been greatly addicted to swearing. After his conversion he said, "I never thought of swearing but just once, when I slipped down in the mud. It came right up to my throat but I stopped it." Sadly enough, about a year later he fell back. The first intimation we had of it was when Rod (Roswell) Wilmarth, a wild but jolly fellow, said, "I guess Gustave is backsliding, I saw him driving his horse pretty fast the other day." When Sister Kingsbury was going forward for prayers in the great congregation, some one was sympathizing with her for having to do such a hard thing but she responded, "I would go to B—— W——'s grocery and get down and pray there if I could get saved." On another occasion she said, "I hugged the Bible to my bosom and all the while it was taking my very heart out." There was good Mary Thomson, Samuel's daughter, always desiring "to be cleansed from the last and least remains of sin" and possibly never learning that life's long desires without an act of definite faith would fail to realize it. But the time had expired, the pastor's report of finances and membership changes for the quarter was given in, and with joyous hand shakings and friendly greetings we were ready for the meeting above.

How can I close these reminiscences of fifty years ago without naming such old teachers and students of the Academy and Philomathean Lyceum as Profs. Buck and Dean,



## Reminiscences of Rushford

Prof. Albee who later brought up the State Normal School of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, from fifty to one thousand in attendance, the Bonds, Morgan, Lathe Higgins, Hiram Coats, F. E. Woods, Charlie Brown and Eugene Hammond.

In an attempt to revive the departed glory and strength of the Lyceum, aided by my friend L. L. Benjamin and the young women of their society, I was carried many miles to engage the able and genial Will Crawford to meet me in public debate, confident that if defeated (there was no vote) it would be honor enough to be beaten by such as he.

Fifty years have passed since Aunt Nancy Woods and Uncle Tom Pratt aroused such enthusiasm at the former anniversary. Uncle Andrew Kimball once conducted me through the old cemetery where my grandfather lies (I was lifted to look at his face at his funeral) and gave me narratives of some, the records of whose deaths go back almost to 1820. When fifty years more have rolled around those who celebrate will read our names, if at all, as of those who lived in the long ago.

How swift the torrent rolls  
That bears us to the sea;  
The tide that hurries thoughtless souls  
To vast eternity.

Our fathers, where are they,  
With all they called their own?  
Their joys and griefs, and hopes and cares,  
And wealth and honor, gone.

NOTE--MRS. Susan Beecher of Elmira is the only living child of Nathan C. Kimball.

## Reminiscences

### RUSHFORD AND RUSHFORD PEOPLE

Mary E. Lane

THE little white village among the hills, a name by which I have sometimes spoken of Rushford, is a place where many of the friendships and affections of my life were born. A ministerial friend who used to visit us there once called upon me here. We were speaking of one of our villages and I said, "It is not a pretty place like Rushford; at least I always thought Rushford a pretty village." He replied, "It is, I thought so too." It pleased me to hear this expression of opinion corroborative of mine, for the gentleman is a born artist and I knew that a sketch of the village from his fingers would be a little gem. It was picturesque in approaching it from whichever direction. The houses were mostly white, the school building centrally located and the churches, of which there were four, were also white, and the green hills nestled lovingly around it as though to bestow upon it their protection and caresses and to give faithful promise of their constant guardianship and care. The house which we owned and where we lived for seven years, gave from the sitting-room window a view of the old cemetery and the ascent beyond. There were many trees there; some of them seemed to be of the aspen variety for when clothed with their summer verdure they trembled and glistened in the sunlight with a lovely frostlike appearance which delighted the eye, while farther on the slope rose gradually and gracefully to distant hill-tops crowned with majestic elms. There are plenty of elms in this level country and near where I live but they never seem so stately as when I saw them growing on the hills of old Allegany County which was my home for so many years.

I first knew Rushford in 1859, the year of my marriage,

## Rushford and Rushford People

in our frequent drives over from Centerville where my husband was preaching and had been for seven years, long enough to know quite intimately many of the people in the neighboring towns. Often we were invited there on occasions of interest, or socially, as the case might be. Usually at such times we stopped at Mr. Galpin's and Mrs. Galpin was my first lady acquaintance and friend in Rushford. To use a homely but expressive phrase, their latch string was always out, and we were often sharers of the welcome and hospitality so characteristic of that pleasant home. What friends of "auld lang syne" we met and what ties of dear association were cemented there. But the "vanished hand" and the "voice that is still" is ever the story of the past and will be until the great home-coming and reunion above. I remember one memorable occasion when we were invited to Rushford. It was one Fourth of July, and we were to come to Mr. Galpin's to meet other friends and from there we were to repair to Mr. Hardy's orchard to listen to the orator of the day, a gentleman from New York whose name I do not remember but who had consented to come for a consideration of one hundred dollars. Great preparations had been made to render the day a success and a large and expectant audience filled the seats. There were brass bands and other music and singing. The ministers and other dignitaries were present to honor the occasion and lend what interest they could. The people were enthusiastic and patriotic. The national colors were in evidence.

"Naught lacked they in that splendid show  
Of pomp or color, gleam or glow."

Forming one very attractive feature were young ladies representing the states in number, attired in white fresh as the morning, with sashes of red, white and blue draped

## Reminiscences

diagonally over one shoulder and floating gracefully below the waist with an effect which was exceedingly pleasing and unique. All the preliminaries having been attended to, the speaker began his address, but scarcely was he launched upon a full tide of eloquence and the attention of his hearers fairly arrested when an imperative whisper from my husband warned me to flee. "Stand not upon the order of your going but go at once," seemed to be spirit of the mandate, and I fled quite unable to resist yet hardly realizing why, and our little party reached Mr. Galpin's door just in time to escape the onslaught of the downpour that broke up the well-planned order of the day. The people fled pell-mell; the poor States went scurrying by with garments drenched and starchless but with colors intensified by the unsparing rain. Everyone who wore a color looked brilliant. Not an umbrella to lend protection to the fugitives, all sought shelter as best they could. The speaker with such gentlemen as were so inclined went to the town hall where he pieced together his discourse in whatever way he was able. But for us the day did not turn out ill, for a large company of us went to the house of Mr. Stebbins where we had a fine time and partook of a splendid repast. We can laugh at the rain when it is over and it is the only time I ever knew it to interfere seriously with the plans and pleasures of the people of Rushford.

In the year 1868 my husband was invited to take charge of the Presbyterian Church of Rushford and he preached there nine years. Upon our arrival at the house we were to occupy, we found that the people had preceded us. Everything had been reduced to order, a long table had been set in one of the rooms and a nice supper was awaiting us. The ceremony of an introduction was almost unneeded, such unaffected cordiality prevailed and such bright good-will

## Rushford and Rushford People

shone in every face and was heard in every welcoming voice; a memory I treasure even now. During my husband's ministry in Rushford regular services were held in the church Sabbath morning and evening, a Sabbath School and Bible classes were maintained, also a weekly prayer meeting and other stated services of the church. The singing was usually exceptionally good, there were good voices and our choir was often praised. The young ladies who played the organ successively were Misses Marion Woodworth, Julia Thompson, Myra Blanchard, Della Howser and May White. The elders of the church were Wm. T. Galpin, David Thomas, Jr., Archibald Adams, and Barnes Blanchard, who also held the office of Deacon, of whom there were two others, namely, Deacon David Thomas, Sr., and Deacon Peck, all men of sterling character and much respected in the community. Nelson Blanchard was the Superintendent of the Sabbath School and I was his assistant until, owing to the failure of his health, he resigned, which I also did after several years of service, and David Thomas, Jr., and Mrs. Cynthia Woodworth were elected in our stead. During my husband's ministry the church was put in beautiful order, papered in fresco, as was then thought suitable, a new carpet and very handsome pulpit chairs, a new organ, bell, and Sabbath School library, were bought. The minister's salary was raised and all the benevolences of the church were liberally contributed to, and this was done not by the aid of church boards but by the people, and wholly at their own expense through the interest that had been awakened. One pleasant remembrance I have, I will mention here, the yearly visit of the ladies of the church and society at our house. They always set a nice table, providing their own repast, and we were treated as invited guests. Their supper was choice and beautifully served, no one



## Reminiscences

knew how to do that better than they; this hospitality of theirs was charming. They simply resolved themselves into a committee of the whole to see that everything was right, and it always was. It frequently happened that more than one of these receptions would take place during the year.

The Rushford people were very social. There would be a succession of visits, teas and dinners and it would require more time than I have at command to tell of all the houses where we were delightfully entertained. There were also festivals, picnics and other events of general interest, but most of all I enjoyed the Christmas Tree occasions at the church. It was not too large to admit of a good deal of decoration and we availed ourselves of the opportunity for the gratification of individual taste. I loved the rich scent of the fresh hemlock and delighted to twine wreaths for doors and windows and to elaborate crosses, harps and anchors to adorn the walls. In truth it would look like a perfect bower. I have never seen anything lovelier in any church before or since. At one time, I am reminded, there was to be a Christmas Tree at the church and I wanted a new dress for the occasion but had resolved that I would buy only the lower priced goods. I went to the store of Mr. Higgins and while I was there Mrs. Homer Brooks came in. She saw the material I was looking at and immediately called my attention to a beautiful piece of dark-blue cashmere. It was lovely in color and texture and was held up before me alluringly but I turned away from the attractive bait, purchased my cheap goods and had it made up; and I wore it contentedly thinking it would do very well for me. But when it came to the distribution of the gifts a package was put into my hands which proved to be the lovely dark-blue cashmere itself—a present to

## Rushford and Rushford People

me from my friends. I expressed my surprise and pleasure as best I could and Mrs. Brooks said, "As soon as I saw you looking at that cheap goods I made up my mind you should have the other." You may be sure it was very much appreciated and it did me good service for a long time.

When we first came to Rushford we lived in a house owned by Henry Kirke White. It was their home but they were willing to rent it to us and we lived there a year. This led to an acquaintanceship with the several families of the Whites, which was delightful. We found in them friends who could be trusted, and there were none whom my husband esteemed more highly as men of integrity and as his personal friends than the brothers Washington, Quincy and Henry Kirke, and this regard equally included Mr. Samuel White, the father of the brothers, whose home was with his daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Barnes Blanchard, who were then our nearest neighbors (the mother, Mrs. Samuel White, was also living at this time) He died May 15, 1874, and my husband officiated at his funeral which was attended by a large concourse of people. The reading was from I Corinthians, 15:20-28, and three points were made as follows: 1. Power Infinite can raise the dead. 2. Suffering life is death, not mere natural change unburdened and unaccelerated. 3. A self determined life is also a subordinate life. Source and sequence cannot be parted. We are the offspring of God. "In Him we live and move and have our being." Hence immortality is certain, for however long life may travel it cannot annul its connection with its cause. God cannot be transcended; all things shall "be subject unto Him that put all things under Him that God may be all in all." Mr. Lane in his notice adds that Mr. White, who was in his

## Reminiscences

eightieth year, had descended from the Pilgrims in direct line from Peregrine White, the first child born after their landing. Himself, an orphan at twelve years, honorably made his own way. He was married to Percy Snow at the age of twenty-four and removed from Vermont to Rushford where he resided constantly for fifty-two years. He speaks also of a daughter then living in Warsaw, New York, and another son who had been given in the late war and he adds "children and grandchildren will greatly miss him from his place. Rushford has lost a citizen, a man superior, just, temperate, virtuous, faithful, without ostentation in every public and private station. He was a gentleman of the older school of men." He also mentions our attendance at his golden wedding in 1868, an event which I well remember. Mr. Barnes Blanchard (nephew of another of the same name previously spoken of) and Mrs. Stella Blanchard were among our most valued friends.

The Talcott family, consisting of Mrs. Talcott and her children, her husband having previously died, were living a short distance from the village but were always steady attendants at the church. Mrs. Talcott was a woman of beautiful Christian character; her profession was more than a name and the influence of her sincere but unpretending life told the story of her devotion and deep attachment to the Lord and to His cause. In returning from a journey taken for restoration to health, she saw the lights shining from the windows of the church, where the people had assembled for prayer, and said she "would like to be with them," but she had returned only to die. My husband and I visited her at this time and I well remember the untroubled expression of her calm, sweet face, as that of one fearless in view of the great change awaiting her and she said in answer to the thought of going to be forever with the

## Rushford and Rushford People

Lord "that would be better." And it was better, for all is well for those who die in the love and service of Christ. She was a sister of Warren McKinney, for many years a valued member of the church. Of the Talcott family only one remains, the youngest daughter, Mrs. McKee. The other daughter, Mrs. Homer Brooks, was one whom I can never forget and if I attempted to relate the specialties of my acquaintance with her the tears would be falling on my paper. In how many ways and how thoroughly her friendship was proven during all the varied fortunes of our Rushford life! No trouble could fall upon us which it was not her endeavor to dispel or lighten, and if she could not drive it away she would at least be a sharer in it. Her helpfulness, her hospitality, her sympathy, each forms a link in a chain of memory unbroken yet.

Unbroken still and never to be broken,  
Although from lip to lip no word is spoken,  
Although from heart there comes no token.  
A radiance from the future faith can borrow,  
Even the brilliance of a better morrow.  
Where love still lives and joy shall banish sorrow.

When it was known that my husband had not long to stay with us, she was the first who came, staying until all was over. When words were unavailing, her tears fell with mine and her hand brought its ever ready ministry of comfort; and afterward whether in loneliness, sickness or the broken-heartedness of grief I could look for her entrance. I knew she would be sure to come. Her character was essentially one of beautiful trueness. Her home was the last I entered in Rushford, her table the last to which I sat down. She never failed me and truly it has been said, "We know not until we behold the parting wing

## Reminiscences

that an angel has been with us." Her brothers, Samuel and Henry, were esteemed and popular young men. Their friendship for my husband was unvarying and manifested in many ways. We were living in Centerville when Henry died and we heard of the sad event at the funeral of Mrs. Laura Higgins, to Mr. Lane a friend of many years and a woman of interesting personality. Frail as he was in health it seemed a double stroke to him, but nothing could have prevented his presence there, and I remember how with streaming eyes he stood by the casket of his beloved young friend. It was the last funeral at which he ever officiated. Samuel's death occurred after the death of my husband and I had then removed to Batavia. In notices sent me at the time I read that when his death was announced "there was the hush of a great sorrow and all felt the blow of a personal affliction." The *Olean Times* is quoted thus, "Mr. Talcott was a gentleman of high character and standing, honorable and successful in business, generous, large-hearted and companionable, and his death while in the prime of a useful life will be deeply regretted by all who came within the wide circle of his acquaintance." It is in affectionate remembrance that I lay this heart-wreath upon the graves of Samuel and Henry Talcott.

The people of Rushford were very considerate of any who needed assistance and on a certain time two young ladies, namely, Miss Mary Lathrop and Miss Ellen Green, now Mrs. Nye, called upon me just as I was upon the eve of departure for a short journey. They had planned for an affair at the hall, the proceeds to be used to assist a family, and in arranging their program they wanted an original contribution from me. I did not refuse or quite consent but I distinctly discouraged the idea. "I could not write anything very worthy, for when I came back the affair



## Rushford and Rushford People

would be so immediately at hand as to leave me very insufficient time for preparation." But they evidently did not look upon the matter in that light for upon my return before I had time for removing my hat both young ladies appeared again. They knew what they wanted and how to win. This time I did not refuse but casting housekeeping and other cares to the winds I sat down and addressed myself to poetry, feeling very sure that I had no time to lose. I was ready at the moment when called for and not much before. I think the event must have been successful as it was repeated on another evening and to a full house each time. My poem was in two parts and as it was written in Rushford and for Rushford it may add somewhat to the interest of my narrative if I copy Part First in this manuscript:

### RENEWAL.

Softly now the morning light  
Ushers in the blushing May,  
Twining in her tresses bright,  
Buds and blossoms gay.

Mark the rainbow round her head,  
See the emerald robe she wears,  
Let the music of her tread  
Drive away our cares.

Smiling April would not wait,  
But through sunset's open door  
Fled and closed the outer gate  
Just the day before.

But the bees a welcome bring.  
In a hum of happy words

## Reminiscences

And the brightening woodlands ring  
With the songs of birds.

Burst from bondage leaps the brook  
Laughing to the balmy morn  
And in many a fragrant nook  
Violets are born.

In the forest cool and deep  
Where the warbling waters glide,  
Where the tender ivies creep  
And the mosses hide

Crowned and kingly elms arise  
With their coronals of green  
Towering to the far-off skies  
And the clouds between.

Clouds that break in freshening showers  
Watering all the verdant earth,  
Baptism of the blessed hours  
And the world's new birth,

Born again to beauty bright  
Out of winter's frozen tomb,  
Into loveliness and light  
Into joy and bloom,

Blossoms blushing underfoot,  
Blossoms breaking from the sod,  
Blossoms pregnant with the fruit  
From the heart of God.

## Rushford and Rushford People

Fragrant orchards bend and sway  
Sweetly to the sighing gale  
And the whispering zephyrs play  
    With their branches pale.

Lilacs lift their purple freight,  
While, by some Eolian tune  
Lulled, the slumbering roses wait  
    For the kiss of June.

Sunshine tinges all the plains,  
Woos the verdure on the hills,  
Warms the maple's flowing veins,  
    Sparkles in the rills,

Decks the daisy-haunted spots,  
Lingers in the leafy shades,  
Courts the blue forget-me-nots  
    On the upland glades,

Throbs and thrills in nature's heart,  
Reaches to its inmost shrine,  
Makes its quickened pulses start  
    With a life divine,

With unstinted hand adorns,  
Showers around a wealth untold,  
Spreads with white the crested thorns,  
    Dots the meads with gold.

Sighs and sounds and scents of spring,  
Varied with delicious grace,  
Breathe and move in everything  
    And through every place.

## Reminiscences

If on embassy divine  
Some fair seraph stayed his flight  
Where these glowing landscapes shine  
    Bathed in golden light,

Would he deem earth's Eden vales  
Seared by sin and dark with death  
Or in spring's serenest gales  
    Feel the winter's breath?

Question we, while human flowers  
Which have made our gardens dear  
Perish from our earthly bowers,  
    Shall they re-appear?

From our ears a song is fled,  
From our sight a form is gone.  
Lost and hidden with the dead  
    Yet do they live on?

Yes, for though the flickering breath  
Flees away mid throes of pain,  
After life and after death  
    Comes the life again.

Tender treasures fade and fall,  
Blasted 'neath the wintry sky.  
God who is the life of all  
    Will not let them die.

While the unfailing fountain flows  
Still the Elysian fields shall bloom  
Vernal in serene repose,  
    Freshness and perfume.

## Rushford and Rushford People

Planted on a deathless shore,  
Thriving in perennial bliss,  
Live they, reign they evermore  
Whom we mourn and miss.

Aye this miracle of love  
Wrought around us year by year  
Doth eternal problem prove,  
Makes the answer clear.

Emblem of that coming day  
When the world renewed shall shine  
Garlanded by endless May  
Hailed by hymns divine.

With the Stacys, who were among the most prominent people of Rushford, my husband's acquaintance began with his first coming to Centerville, where the father of Dr. Orrin T. Stacy practised medicine many years and was highly esteemed by the people of the community. Mr. Lane had for him a warm personal friendship and at the time of his death, which occurred in Rushford, he gave a memorial address in the Centerville Presbyterian Church, which was very largely attended by the people who were thus granted an opportunity to testify to their appreciation of him as physician, friend and neighbor, to whom was given the place his worth had won him in the hearts of all. At the marriage of Miss Mary Stacy to Mr. Hubbard Mr. Lane officiated as he did at her funeral years after, from the house of her sister, Mrs. William E. Kyes. Another daughter, Mrs. Minerva Blodgett, was led by him to take a Christian stand after very earnest research into questions which



## Reminiscences

had hitherto prevented her, but coming at last into full and joyful acceptance she publicly professed the name of Christ, and in one month thereafter she went to be with him. I have often heard Mr. Lane speak of her as one of the most brilliantly intellectual women he ever knew. Miss Ellen Stacy, who afterwards became Mrs. Brown, was a resident of Rushford when we came there and I have a pleasant remembrance of herself and Mrs. Kyes as members of my Bible class and in society. Dr. Orrin T. Stacy was widely known as a physician, popular and agreeable in all social relations and congenial as a neighbor and friend. Mrs. Stacy was a woman of education, accomplishments and literary culture with many graces of character. She had an unassumed thoughtfulness for others and a quick intuition of what would be pleasing or of interest to them. She was a good listener, receiving and retaining everything of value, while her criticisms were helpful and discriminating, and having a store to contribute, one would go far to find a more companionable associate or a choicer friend than Mrs. Stacy.

Another whom Mr. Lane knew from his first coming to Allegany County was Mr. Orrin T. Higgins who was engaged in business in Centerville before he came to Rushford. Mr. Higgins was a prosperous merchant who by consummate business ability had built up his own fortunes from his earliest youth. He was a man of pleasing address and refined manners and I remember him as unvaryingly kind, unostentatious and sincere—a true friend to ourselves and one of Rushford's most respected and upright citizens. Of his son, Frank Wayland Higgins, Rushford has just reason to be proud as of one born there and spending much of his early life in that place. I met him often in those days and even then he was a leading spirit in the

## Rushford and Rushford People

community. In presence he was very attractive, with all the bright enthusiasm and high purpose of his young manhood, giving rich promise which was to be fulfilled in later years. I did not wonder at his becoming known in his native State and when his name became so prominent, with what interest I watched every event of his career. How proud I was of his success, how I rejoiced when he was elected Governor, and when the sickness came how I hoped against hope for his recovery, I was so sure that his life-work was not yet completed. But God sees beyond the boundary of our lower horizon and if the veil were removed from our vision we would see the far better, nobler place assigned him and the grander work he has to do. Of beloved memory, we may hope to meet him in the better world and larger life upon which he has entered. When Mr. Lane was ill preceding his death I remember boxes of delicacies being sent from Rock City, from Mr. Higgins and Samuel Talcott who were associated in business at that place—gifts which I acknowledged in hurried notes, but which I never forgot though the donors may have done so. Miss Clara, as she then was, I was also privileged to know, and in the intimacies of Rushford society we were sharers in her graceful hospitality as the young mistress of her father's house.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Charles were for a series of years our nearest neighbors and they were intimate and dearly beloved friends. With them it was neighborliness in the truest sense—the kindness which really cares one for the other under all the varying circumstance. We do not always remember our first impressions but in meeting these young people when they were new comers, I recall mine as wholly pleasurable. I seemed to expect friendship from them and hoped to be a gainer from knowing them, nor was I to be

## Reminiscences

disappointed. They were not strangers long to us or in Rushford society. Coming from Angelica, Mrs. Charles presented a letter to the Presbyterian Church and from that time she was one of our most earnest and faithful workers in church and Sabbath School, and they were soon surrounded by a large circle of appreciative friends. Dr. Charles was a man of very engaging qualities. However much he enjoyed the pleasantries of life, the sub-stratum of his character was deep and serious; of fine moral fiber, he had the courage of his convictions. He was not afraid of plain speech when called for, or to take sides when necessary as was evidenced during our Civil War, that dread strife that rent our land, that laid its rupturing hand on many a home and left its awful scars on many a heart. What does not our nation owe to such men as Dr. Charles and his brothers who went out from Angelica to the battle's front? No child's play that—it was grim death that faced them and they did not shrink. Their patriotism was as deeply ingrained as life itself. Very exalted, very noble was the love of country that inspired them. The record how brief—and yet how much it means of self-sacrifice, devotion and surrender, as of men who gave all. Dr. Charles enlisted at Angelica, New York, on the seventh day of August, 1862, in Company G, First New York Dragoons, for three years. He was wounded at Cold Harbor May 31, 1864, by a gun shot in the left ankle and was honorably discharged for disability at Rochester, New York, on the fifth of May, 1865. Robert and Richard A. of Washington, D. C., were seriously wounded. John died from a gun shot wound received in the last battle his company was engaged in, and David from sunstroke during a battle in which he was engaged. Is not the record of these three brothers one to thrill the heart and bring the tears? Dr. Charles

## Rushford and Rushford People

died March 1, 1891, at Rushford after an illness of eleven years.

In his chosen profession his work was thus cut short but he was already widely and favorably known as a practitioner. What the future would have brought we cannot know or estimate. Dying in the prime of life after years of suffering, we can only faintly picture what might have been and think regretfully of a dispensation by which a career which promised much was unfinished. Those who knew Dr. Charles best, loved him most, and the saying comes to me, equally applicable to Dr. and Mrs. Charles, "If they loved him not they knew him not," and it was because I knew them both so well that I loved them so much. Of Mrs. Charles, she was not the mere flower of sunshine blossoming for its own pleasure but rather to be compared to those winter blossoms you may have seen pushing up in frost and snow superior to circumstances and bearing ever its message of comfort to others—she could be brave and she could help. Louie once said to me, "She always comes to us with a smile." There was something deep and rich in her nature and the comfort she brought us was beyond estimate. She knew what we had lost but she had the smile and the word we needed, like the Master's "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." She was with me in those days of sorrow which could not be wholly dark with such friends. The little poem I copy here seems not inappropriate for the friend of whom I have been writing. Its value lies in its simple sincerity

### WINTER BLOSSOMS.

While the flowers of summer are fragrant and fair  
With blushes of brightness surpassing my song  
I remember the winter so rugged and bare

## Reminiscences

When the shadows of trouble crept darkly along,  
The days and the nights when the storms were abroad  
And the winds swept the hills like the terror of God;  
Mid blasts of destruction so weary and wild  
I could not believe that a blossom e'er smiled.

Yet even mid the tempest a garland awoke  
Of loveliest beauty and excellence rare;  
From the frost-hardened sod I was treading, it broke  
And spread out its leaves on the turbulent air.  
It lifted its bells to the snow-drifted day  
Arranging its clusters in charming array  
And sent up its sweets so unchangingly dear  
That I owned it the crown and the gem of the year.

A garland of kindness, a garland of grace  
More fair than those flowers of the summer are fair,  
With constant endurance it blesses the place  
Where I hallow my holiest treasures with prayer.  
Be it summer and sunshine or winter and shade,  
A wreath has been woven that never will fade.  
With incense immortal, at morning and even  
It gladdens the heart like a garland of heaven.

Of Louis Bryant Lane I will briefly say he was with us during our entire Rushford life, having the same interests as his father and mother and a student both in the school and at home. Other friends of whom I have many kindnesses to remember were Mrs. Galpin, Mrs. Stella Blanchard, Mrs. Cynthia Woodworth and Mrs. Mary Thomas. Of how many I have written and still they come. They throng the halls of memory and knock softly at the door of the heart and they are asking, "Have you forgotten



## Recollections

me?" and I reply, "No, I have forgotten none." But time presses and weariness urges me to drop the pen. And so Rushford, and dear people of Rushford, good-bye—good-bye. But partings are not forever and some day I shall see you all again.

For love outlasts the years,  
Outlasts our flowing tears,  
Smiles when we weep above the silent grave.  
When life's most sacred trust  
Doth crumble into dust  
She builds anew, she doth confirm and save.

For you who come today,  
Flowers of a long lost May  
Wearing so well the semblance of the past,  
Shall prove me yet again,  
Where life not death shall reign,  
In perfect real truth how love doth last.

For you, beloved and dear,  
Haply to memory near,  
And speaking soul to soul with olden art,  
In just a little while  
We shall clasp hands and smile  
And glance to glance shall answer heart to heart.

## RECOLLECTIONS

O. L. Elliott

MY earliest recollections of Rushford are quite vague, but two items come into somewhat sharp relief: the woolen mill at Gordonville where my folks made annual purchases of carded wool and cloth, and the gristmill at East Rushford where, on rare occasions, I accompanied

## Reminiscences

my father with his load of wheat and oats and, in some mysterious and wonderful fashion, saw them converted into flour and feed. Rushford proper looms up a little later, a great and busy mart of trade, with bewildering variety and succession of shops all the way along Main Street from the Tarbell House to the Globe Hotel. Going to Rushford to trade was a distinct event and filled with all the sensations which the modern dweller in country places experiences in his not less natural and not less frequent expeditions to cities like Rochester and Buffalo. The O. T. Higgins store at the foot of Main Street (later A. M. Taylor's), with Grover Pratt as salesman, was likely to be the first and main objective. On the steps of this store one could listen to the harangues of Frank Higgins with his marked gift of "gab," and whose boyish opinions, particularly on matters political, were always pronounced. Quite as regularly visited were Howser's blacksmith shop, Stacy's drug-and-many-other-kinds-of-store, and W. E. Kyes' dry goods store. Of course Galpin's furniture shop, Mason's grocery, Bush's, White and Elmer's and the others, were not forgotten. Going to town was an all day affair, and the idea of doing one's business promptly and returning home forthwith did not greatly prevail; or rather, one's business was much wider than mere trading and included due allowance of time for social amenities and for basking in the metropolitan sunshine.

In the fall of 1875 I came to be in small measure a part of the Rushford community. For five days in the week I "boarded myself" in Mrs. Hall's house by the creek, on Lower Street, and attended the Union Free School of which W. W. Bean was principal. Five terms in all, scattered over as many years, I claimed Rushford as my abode, the last three living with Mr. and Mrs. Gratton on the Gordon-

## Recollections

ville road. My life in Rushford was thus centered about the old Academy. That life was unadulterated joy. With more than a country lad's share of reticence and unsophistication, there went a tolerably wide outlook upon public affairs which gave a certain confidence and poise even if it did build more than one fool's paradise of ignorance and conceit. There was not much social life of a formal sort, and I do not remember that athletics cut any figure whatever. But they were the opening days in young lives, the days of purple mist, and my companions of the Table Round came so to be a part forever of the texture of my life. I will not try to call the full roll; but if I name Eddy Gilbert, Will Benson, Will Benjamin, Frank White ("Phrantic" of the press), Obed and Stephen Wilmot, Homer and Clate Tarbell, Myron Fisher, "Dr." Ryder, Kate Hardy, Verna Gordon, Myrtie Nye, Frona Gilbert, Anna Kendall, Kate and May Lundrigan, Jennie Laning, Flora Metcalf, and Helen White, it will call to mind the others in the long list.

Professor Bean was distinctly a schoolmaster of the old school; but a finer representative that old school need never have asked. It was under him that I wound up finally those grammar school subjects which had been going 'round and 'round in the district school time out of mind. Examinations were the crowning delight of all the school routine, and I remember how, when all the Regents' (there were only a few subjects then) had been passed at that first bout, succeeding Regents' examinations were a mournful period because they could not be taken over again. We all likewise took the teachers' examinations, and in the evening trooped up to the Globe Hotel to find out from Commissioner Frank Smith whether we had "passed." If we had, and then owning up our age found we were ineligible for

## Reminiscences

that Third Grade Certificate, we knew at least that we should have the fun of trying examinations another time. I seem to notice in these days a decided change of attitude toward examinations; and I suspect it is partly, at least, because the examinations have changed. Certainly the hardest question the Commissioner could put up to us in grammar, for example, was to analyze and parse that but half understood quotation from "Macbeth," "If it were done when 't is done, then 't were well it were done quickly."

Professor Diamond was first of the line of modern schoolmasters in Rushford. I imagine reorganization was not an easy task and that it did not proceed far at that time; but I remember my one term under his principalship as without a flaw. To Professor Spooner, under whom my next two terms fell, I am most indebted. He, more completely than any other teacher I have ever had, filled out my ideal of the high school principal. Under him such vague notions as I may have cherished about further study were crystallized and my mind turned definitely toward a college education. Under him I studied the English and higher mathematics, the little Latin and less Greek, which served to meet the modest entrance requirements of Cornell. Van Norman, my last principal, stands out less distinctly in my memory, I suppose because there was more routine and less awakening at that particular stage of existence.

But no excursion through the chambers of memory could omit an offering at the shrine of Polyhymnia. It was Professor Spooner and Miss White, was it not? who were responsible for the starting of the Polyhymnian. However that may be, they it was who presided over its destinies and guided it safely through the dangers which might easily have been its undoing. What faithful devotion went into

## Retrospection

it, and how much of serious development it stood for to its devoted membership! If we read Shakespeare perhaps too seriously and from distressingly small print, we had the necessary relief in such parts of our program as the famous murder trial when poor "Dr." Ryder was so badly tangled among his poisons by the merciless cross-examination of Counselor Gilbert. And outside of Polyhymnian what devotion we put into Seth Greenback, Louva the Pauper, and other dramas of its class.

That Rushford hasn't changed much in its outward aspects, hasn't increased in population, hasn't taken on a citified air, hasn't become a railroad center or a summer resort, may sometimes seem vexatious to its inhabitants; but it is altogether a comfort to those of us who have wandered far and who can hope to get back only at long intervals. The cemetery, the Academy, the four churches, the two taverns, the livery stable, the residences, and particularly the straggling street to Gordonville, the business places with only such reconstruction as fire and flood make necessary—this is the way we like to think of it. We cannot put the youths and maidens of thirty years ago into school and Polyhymnian again, but as fathers, mothers, and rulers they seem more really our fellow voyagers and friends, in the old familiar setting and in the routine that has not succumbed to the rush and fury of other regions of twentieth-century America.

### RETROSPECTION

Clara Bristol Tiffany

WHETHER we realize it or not—whether we will it or not—we are building, day by day, our own habitation, for time and for eternity. The good acts of our todays and yesterdays are the solid blocks of that building; the



## Reminiscences

wrong deeds form the blocks that are only sawdust and will vanish away, leaving those empty, irregular spaces that spoil the beauty and completeness of the finished structure. The pleasures of life,—if *real* fun, that is “fun in anticipation, fun in realization, fun in retrospection,”—make the most beautiful decorations for the rooms of our abiding place.

Methinks, in this busy, rushing world, it is good to stop and go back, hand in hand with memory, and visit the rooms long since closed that we may be refreshed and encouraged to build well today. Let us enter the library first and, though we wander through the soft glow of the firelight, we can clearly distinguish most beautiful pictures. As we look at one we realize that we have left behind the narrow, stifling town, for before us we see vast reaches of prairie whose desolation is accentuated by the wandering coyote and the lonely miner's cabin. Apparently from the sky itself rise vast mountains—those mighty sentinel towers of the far western country, that imagination easily peopled with giant watchmen, forbidding the unhallowed intrusion of civilized man. Another picture shows us the magnificent western sun surrounding the calm face of old Hood for a moment in a golden halo and then dropping a mantle of roseate hue upon the broad shoulders; or glorifying hoaryheaded Shasta, on every side, revealed to us in following the curves of the Southern Pacific that loops and twines about the feet of the noble mountain as if it loved to linger there to do it homage. Such scenes as these lift us above the petty cares and trials of our small lives and bring us face to face with the Infinite, Unchangeable, Omnipotent, and we ask, “What is man, that thou art mindful of him,” or our small lives that thou carest for them?

Another picture shows us the depths of the ocean. We see tall trees of kelp waving so gently in the waters,

## Retrospection

the beautiful sponges clinging so closely to the rocks, the fern moss reaching out tiny hands, the coral moss with its exquisite lavender tints, the sensitive sea anemone with their mingling shades of rich browns and greens, with the occasional gleam of the rainbow tinted abaloné shells clinging to the rocks, and the deep blue and rich orange, of gold fish, gliding about like paradise birds among flowers—all combine to make a picture too beautiful for description. Verily these are the “wonders of the deep” that give us a faint conception not only of the omniscience but of the tender love of the Creator who saw that all that he had made was good.

Looking at another picture we see the great audience and feel again the inspiration that comes from holding and swaying them and having our convictions reproduced and taken from state to state. And the quaint little wonder repeats itself, if we shall ever wake and find ourselves famous, but memory, our faithful companion reassures us. No such misfortune has befallen.

We would love to linger here but we must pass on to another room. Here are few pictures, but experiences carved deep upon the walls. They represent people continually coming and going. But what is their mission? Ah yes, we recognize it. It is only the reception room of the busy pastor's wife. The first record shows a committee to wait upon her to see if she will join the choir and sing alto. And will she play the organ? She can do neither and they retire with anxious faces. They do need an alto singer so badly and they are afraid she isn't going to be much help. Anyhow, they aren't used to having a pastor's wife and they are afraid they can't find enough for her to do. The next committee want her to accept the presidency of the new “Aid Society.” Well, at least she will conduct the devotional,

## Reminiscences

give the address of welcome and one number on the program for the public meeting soon to be held. And these want a paper for the next W. C. T. U. Institute and these a chalk talk for the Sunday School convention and the next a speech for the C. E. convention. The next group have evidently come to report the unpleasant things said about the pastor, and here are others passing by with haughty looks because last Sabbath's sermon was too personal. Here is a good sister come to remind her that Mrs. B. is offended because she hasn't called. Mrs. B. lives several miles away and has her own carriage. The pastor's wife has a little baby in arms and no carriage—and why should she make the first call upon a lady of leisure anyway? But what is this? Here are people entering her home and attempting to rearrange its furnishings, and they criticize her clothing and even ask its price. And here comes my lady of "fairs, festivals and follies," to ask if she will paint a picture for the bazar and make a cake for the next supper. But the procession changes, at length, and here comes a group of thoughtful souls laden with good gifts to lighten the burdens of the overburdened pastor's wife. Skillful fingers find that pile of unfinished sewing, and the little garments grow together as if by magic. There are sweet notes,—yes, real bank notes and birthday and Christmas gifts to lighten the way.

There is a sad dark corner where for five long months the angel that men call Death hovers over the cradle of her baby boy and the agonized mother weeps and prays, almost alone, while he slowly, reluctantly, takes his leave. But it is not all in vain, for here are souls in sickness, and bereavement, and sorrow for sin and she is permitted to lead them to the Comforter and Savior. Surely in this room are recorded strange and varied experiences.

## Retrospection

Passing on we find ourselves in what might be a conservatory full of beautiful flowers. No, they are children's faces. There never were better children and here is the record of our happy school-ma'am days. We would like to stop and ask, "Where did you go, my little man?" and "Has the world been kind to you, little maid?" but not until the final examination will each life story be told.

And now we come to a room that is draped in black and orange, shall we say? It is the sunshine and shadow of Lima school days. Here are recorded hard experiences, and some happy, but no care-free, days. Here we find the faces of life-long, loyal friends. Just beyond is a sunny little parlor of the first happy school days at Pike.

We have wandered on until we have come upon the large playroom of childhood days at Rushford. The walls are covered with pictures. Here are a little boy and girl coasting. The little boy draws the sled up the hill and steers it down. Oh what fun they have! Yes, we would recognize them, even if we did not see, back in a corner, almost hidden by cobwebs, the couplet scrawled in awkward, childish hand,

"First the watch and then the crystal,  
Lucian Benjamin and Clara Bristol."

And here are hosts of pictures of sleigh ride parties, with always the same little couple "handling the ribbons." Sometimes few and sometimes many others completed the "load." Often there were Harry Wagoner and Charlie, the brother, and Ora Gates and the fun loving sister, Adelaide, for whom the earthly school is out.

"For the dear girl now stands  
Before the one great Master  
In the house not made with hands."

## Reminiscences

Another gay picture was made by E. O. Butterfield's singing school and the sleigh-ride parties that followed him to nearby towns, although the dearest music to them was

"How swift we go o'er the fleecy snow  
When hoofs keep time to music's chime,  
As merrily on we go."

Perhaps the jolliest crowd that ever sent "sleigh bells laughing out on the night air" went down to Rawson on that memorable winter night, to Rob. Thompson's surprise party, singing, singing, all the way down; singing to the music of jingling bells all the way back and startling the white-capped farmer's wives from their cosy beds. There were those wonderful foot races down Buffalo Street with Mag. Lundrigan, in which the smallest girl often proved the winner, in spite of serious handicap in length of runners. There were the long tramps in the sweet-scented woods in spring-time, searching for flowers and wintergreens. There was our little society in which the debates were often informal and not on literary subjects, and our May party and "queen o' the May." We come now to a wood scene. I see a great kettle of boiling syrup over an open fire in the snow-covered woods. That waxed sugar on the snow! I can taste it yet! Yes, and also good Mrs. Benjamin's pickles, when we had eaten sweet, 'till we could eat no more.

However all the bright pictures were not outside, many were inside the schoolroom. Memory brings again those baseball spelling matches where words instead of balls were pitched and caught, and faithfully recalls our one ignominious defeat, with poor little Everett Young as captain. Oh the fun, at our expense, of Captain Gene Benson on the other side, supported by every good speller in school! And the parsing matches were almost equally exciting. Then there



## Retrospection

was that history class where we strove to see who could commit the text of old Ridpath most accurately and rattle it off most fluently (I can repeat some of those paragraphs yet). And what fun it was to see who could stand up longest in naming dates from 986 to the end of the Rebellion. To me the crowning picture of all is the fine, intellectual face of the presiding genius of that school room, Helen J. White, a true educator. She, by kindness and judicious encouragement, led out our struggling powers and developed our hidden talents. She was the guide of timid feet, the sympathetic friend at the critical time, the inspiration of all our after life. To her we owe the best of all we have ever hoped to attain.

Ah those Rushford school days!  
Dear old golden rule days,  
Reading and writing and courteous ways,  
Taught to the tune of love and praise.

As we take a final look at these pictures of our own painting we recognize their imperfections and their crudeness. Yet the pleasant scenes here represented have encouraged us to take up our brush again and paint new pictures. However imperfect these may be when our last stroke is added, if we have given our best, when retouched by the Master's hand, they will reveal a little of his beauty and sublimity. As we examine the blocks of our building, we find so few that are strong and accurate. But we cannot live again past days, and useless regrets will paralyze our hands for today's building. With grateful hearts we will

"Build today, then, strong and sure,  
With a firm and ample base,  
And ascending and secure,  
Shall tomorrow find its place."

## Reminiscences

### A PICTURE

Florence Octavia Munger

(May 7, 1891.)

RUSHFORD with her hills and valleys, her brooks and bridges with their overhanging willows, are fresh in mind. Let me draw a picture of the past. I look out of the parsonage\* window. In front of a certain boot and shoe store, which is run by one of Rushford's Brooks, are gathered a group of the city fathers discussing the affairs of nation, with the locals which are agitating the village thrown in for spice. Then come along the clerical men. Were there ever three such tall, thin dominies in one little parish before or since?—the learned Cone, the artist Grames and Munger the Baptist. Who is this that is walking so furiously? It is like the walking of one of the sons of the medical art—he of the deep† name; and that more deliberate mender of ills‡ I see too, he is going to give nature a chance to apply her healing arts. Here are a troop of children, just from school; they rush to Mrs. Woodworth's tempting windows to discuss her beautiful display of dolls, choice china, artistic bits of fancywork, ribbons, plumes, flowers, bric-a-brac—all in rich profusion. I notice those very intellectual people passing along with a studious, pre-occupied air, as if the fate of our great Republic rested with them; they seem to be saying,

“Sail on, O Union strong and great!

\* \* \* \* \*

Our hopes, our hearts, our prayers, our tears  
Are all with thee—are all with thee.”

\*The parsonage was then just west of the Baptist Church.

†Dr. W. F. Wells.

‡Dr. O. T. Stacy.

## Moriturus Ave!

It is the evening of the Historical Society and these are its devotees, "We'll take a cup o' kindness yet" for the pleasant hours spent with the Historical Society and for Saturday evening, the 22nd of February, 1890.

And now I see other faces, clasp again the friendly hand, the sweet church bell rings, God's people are going into his temple to worship, the forms of those I loved, whose friendship I still cherish enter with me into His temple,

"And when I ask with throbs of pain,  
'Ah! when shall we all meet again?'  
As in the days long since gone by,  
The ancient timepiece makes reply,  
          'Forever—never!  
          Never—forever!'"

## MORITURUS AVE!

G. W. F. Buck

FROM afar to my mountain dwelling  
Come letters my heart that thrill,  
Of gentle speech they are telling  
By friends who remember me still,  
Through the century's half, since together  
We carolled youth's glad refrain,  
Through all that changeful weather  
Its sunshine, its cold, fierce rain,

Love me, love me a little blindly,  
Dear ones, who have loved me so long,  
If ye think of me too kindly,

## Reminiscences

God will say, "'Tis no terrible wrong,"  
Of each other the worth, not weakness,  
We please Him best, to learn,  
Very sad must be the bleakness  
Of souls that are swift to spurn.

With tenderness, "How faring?"  
Friends mine, ye would ask, I know;  
How sure we were once of sharing,  
Each day's delight and woe!

Very old, a trifle weary,  
Not eager to go, or to stay,  
Seem never these calm years dreary,  
As above me they roll away.  
We agree—Life and I—much better  
Since 'tis plain that soon we must part,  
Beats now against his fetter,  
Not so recklessly, quite my heart.

Shine the "Spheres Seven," more brightly  
These nights, than they shone in the past?  
They're bending down to me slightly,  
That my route may seem less vast.

I must tell you the supreme blessing,  
That has been to my ownership brought,  
'Tis the home of my possessing,  
None finer by gold can be bought.  
Building slowly, we braced it securely,  
Shrewd builders, my Soul and I!  
For this mansion, we know full surely,  
We'll inhabit it after we die.

## Moriturus Ave!

Not a stick or a stone that can perish  
Allowed we, from basement to peak,  
"We will use what we always can cherish,"  
Thus each to the other would speak.

This abode, I fancy, is quaintest,  
That whirls round with our whirligig-ball  
"Heart's home"—not a sign of it, faintest,  
Would you notice if coming to call.  
The framework, I term it so, merely  
Vista, cleft through my vanishing days;  
And the reason I dwell there so cheerly  
Is that all the broad space is ablaze  
With memories; here, of beauty and splendor,  
I sighed for, or tried for, or shared;  
And there of a pathos so tender,  
Fit to chant it not yet born the bard.

Faults, follies, all those are excluded;  
Not mine only; especially those  
That into my being intruded,  
Friends thoughtless, or too thoughtful foes.  
For why should we care to remember  
The darkness, the doubt and the doom,  
When for every dull December,  
There are months, so many, of bloom.

Oh, the glow, Oh, the gleam of my treasures,  
As I move through my magical hall;  
But a scene of the Northland o'er-measures,  
Quite o'er-measures the others all,  
Not of sea, or of mountain the glory,  
Mid the uplands, a valley fair,



## Reminiscences

Too meek for song or for story,  
Softly nestles a hamlet there.

Oh, the dear, dear forms that wandered  
Long ago, down that quiet street;  
Oh, the mad, mad love we squandered,  
That no answering love would meet!

I must dream, must dream no longer,  
Regrets long dead arise;  
Forgive, that I am not stronger,  
That my world is a wild surmise;  
That I need not your Rushford, the real,  
Its autos and trains rushing through,  
That I yearn for a Rushford ideal,  
Knowing well it has faded from view.

Ye longed for, here they sever  
Us harshly, time and space,  
But we learn of a fair Forever  
Where friendship will find more grace.

Moriturus Ave! saying,  
I salute thee, O Rushford, the new,  
And while Death still deigns, delaying,  
Receive this fond adieu.

# XIII

## GREAT CELEBRATIONS

### SEMI-CENTENNIAL, 1859.

H. J. W. G.

**A**RRANGEMENTS for the Semi-Centennial were made by the following: President, A. J. Lyon; Vice-Presidents, 1. S. White, 2. A. Rose, 3. Wm. L. Gary, 4. E. Perry, 5. L. Benjamin; Committee on Arrangements, 1. J. G. Osborne, 2. E. P. Lyon, 3. S. Hardy, 4. J. Bell, 5. L. C. Kimball, 6. W. White, 7. S. Root, 8. B. T. Hapgood, 9. W. Young, 10. I. Lathrop, 11. J. T. Wier, 12. J. Holmes, 13. A. K. Allen, 14. J. Griffin; Corresponding Secretary, S. White.

The last days of December, 1858, men were going to town to buy groceries women were baking and there was one topic of conversation, the Semi-Centennial. Long, rude tables were being improvised and dishes from the stores were being carried to the basement of the Academy, then the Town Hall. Saturday, January 1, 1859, the fiftieth anniversary to the very day of the settlement of the town of Rushford, was cool and pleasant. The Academy, where dinner was served from noon until night, was the center of attraction. It is said that three hundred sat down to the first tables. And such tables! They were loaded with roast turkey (Uncle John Worthington furnished one), chicken pie, beef and pork, baked beans, potatoes and turnips cooked on the spot, rice puddings, twisted doughnuts, apple butter, pies, cakes and what not? Some were made sick. Do you wonder at it? They said it was the chicken pie.



Mr. and Mrs. Abraham J. Lyon  
Judge Lyon was president of the Semi-Centennial

## Semi-Centennial

Blooming damsels of sixteen, Lucy Gordon\*, Anna Wier† and Amelia Brooks,‡ assisted by George Swift and Henry Hyde, were among the waiters. There was strife among them to see which should have the finest table. Other waiters were Sophia Benjamin, Minerva Simpson, Mrs. Thomas White and Mrs. Ellen White Hubbell. The surplus of the feast was given to the poor.

In the chapel of the Academy there was a feast of reason and a flow of soul. Remarks were made by A. J. Lyon, the President. Uncle Tom Pratt was the orator of the day. He, as well as many of his listeners, knew whereof he spoke. Nobody went to sleep that day as he rehearsed the privations and experiences of the early times. "In the spring," said he, "when the last piece of pork dropped into the barrel, it seemed to say, 'Hark from the tombs a doleful sound.'" But enthusiasm rose to its height when he said that they did not forget the scriptural injunction to 'multiply and replenish the earth.' A thrill must have gone through the audience when he said, "Ebenezer Pratt Lyon and Jedediah Buckingham Gordon, stand up on the stove there and let the people see what kind of boys were rocked in sap troughs."

When Dr. Dickinson was called on to give the history of the town he said that what he had to say seemed tame after listening to such a speech. We all regret the loss of his excellent historical narrative as it would be of great value today. Fortunately a part of the paper given by Samuel White has been preserved. The early settlers on the platform were in high glee, one after another jumping up to tell of his hardships in the new country, and of priva-

\*Mrs. George Gant.

†Mrs. Thomas of Lansing, Iowa.

‡Mrs. Dwight Atkins of Nunda.

## Great Celebrations

tions while waiting for vegetables to grow and cows to become fresh. Aunt Nancy Woods told her experiences in her jolly, good way. There was an exhibition of relics of pioneer days, and a woman dressed in the costume of fifty years before, created much merriment. The attendance was so large that though the chapel was packed many could not get in. The stage was decorated, not with palms and cut flowers, but with links of sausage and strings of dried apples and pumpkins cut in circles and hung on pegs as if to dry. When inspiring strains of martial music were heard, one of the pioneers gave vent to his feelings by dancing on the Academy walk. A young girl who saw him was much shocked to think that he, a Methodist, should dance. What a happy day it must have been! A number who celebrated that day are now celebrating the Hundredth Anniversary. Who that are here today will be present when the third half century has rolled around?

A portion of the address given by Samuel White at the Semi-Centennial:

In 1816 there were only two frame buildings in town. Mr. Freeman, one of the first settlers, had a frame addition to his log house, and on the farm where Mr. Morrow now lives there was a frame barn, built by Esq. Gary in 1814. The oldest man in town is Mr. Luther Woodworth, his age is eighty-eight. The oldest woman is Mary Williston at the advanced age of ninety-three. She is the only Revolutionary pensioner in this vicinity. \* \* \* The number of men who have died in Rushford within forty years, to say nothing of women and children, is not far from one hundred and thirty, and the number of men now living who settled in Rushford before the year 1817, is only eighteen. \* \* \* The first match made in Rushford was on the south side of the creek; the parties were Wm. Rawson and Luany





Rev. Thomas L. Pratt, Orator of the  
Semi-Centennial



## Great Celebrations

Swift;\* I cannot tell the precise time, but probably 1811.

\* \* \* Mr. Wm. Gordon's first wife, a daughter of Esq. Gary, was the first person that died in town. A young man by the name of Hubbard was the second, and Mr. Warren,† who was drowned, was the third. In 1816 the only grave near the center of the town was Mr. Warren's. Elder Bannister, a Methodist minister from Vermont, came with his family to Rushford. He was a very good sort of a man, rather eccentric, full of fun for a preacher, and always ready to receive or crack a joke. Soon after the reformation (a revival of which he was probably the cause), he happened to go to Burrow's tavern in Castile. There he found a brother Methodist, with whom he commenced a conversation in relation to the revival in Rushford. A wag who was present wanted to know how the Lord could find the way to Rushford through the woods without a pilot? "Why," said the Elder, "he followed the marked trees, I suppose." Some time after this the old Elder was praying for the people of Rushford. There was in the place a very wicked sort of a chap, Wm. Burns, Jr. The old Elder commenced a prayer in his behalf, and said, "Oh Lord, convert Wm. Burns; we don't mean old Mr. Burns, but Wm. Burns, Jr." He meant to lay it down so the Lord could understand it. At another time when Elder Bannister was interceding and praying for others, he used this expression, "Oh, Lord, convert the whole world; oh! and John Gordon, too!" When I told you about the homespun dresses of the ladies, I should have said something about the patches that ornamented the apparel of the men. Patches were in fashion, and it was not considered a crime or a disgrace to

\*Having lost the original paper, I took this name from a copy; perhaps, the name is Lurany, since Charles Swift had a daughter by that name.—H. J. W. G.

†He was the miller who was drowned while repairing his dam.

## A Leaf From My Journal

wear them. They were probably as fashionable at the time we speak of as the best of broadcloth garments are at this day. You young people will be surprised when I tell you that a patch on a certain pair of pantaloons made Wm. L. Marcy governor of New York. January 1, 1817, the dwelling of Samson Hardy was burned to ashes. It was in the morning. By twelve o'clock (noon), the neighbors had assembled with axes and teams, and before night they hauled enough logs to rebuild the house. About this time Judge McCall came and advised them not to build a log house, but to put up a plank house, and offered to saw the lumber gratis. The next day a sufficient quantity of logs was at McCall's mill, and in a few days Mr. Hardy's family were comfortably quartered in their new house. If ever there was a time when every man loved his neighbor as himself, it was when the country was new. They were full of love and good will, and sometimes full of whiskey. If a man had a log house to raise, everyone would make the business his own and attend to it faithfully, until it was made comfortable and convenient.

## A LEAF FROM MY JOURNAL

Cynthia Woodworth

**A**LL hail! thou joy inspiring morn: all hail!  
Auspicious day; whose heralding has been  
The deep wild din of rattling porcelain,  
The quick, fierce clash of cutlery and tin,  
The very mention of whose approach

NOTE.—January 1st, 1859, was celebrated at Rushford as being the fiftieth anniversary of the settlement thereof. Speeches, martial music and feasting were the order of the day.

## Great Celebrations

Has proved acknowledged signal to all  
Turkeys and fat hens, to lay their heads  
Upon the block, nor take them up again.  
And e'en the stubborn, contra swine, with grunt  
Defiant, yielded his life at last, for  
A "Thank Offering" and all in vain essayed  
"To save his bacon." Savors, smelling sweet,  
Arose from household altars (vulgarly called  
Ovens), until our neighbors far and near,  
Exultantly have snuffed the breeze of thy  
Forthcoming—and join with us to bid thee  
Hail! most welcome day of kindly cheer,—  
Assembled now; that is to say, we're packed,  
And jammed, and crammed in just no space at all,  
Regardless all of crinoline or hoops  
(That everybody knows will break); we list,  
With mouth agape and ears unstopped, to all  
The incidents, the accidents they please  
To tell. And sure this is a joyous time.  
The heightened radiance of all eyes betray  
The gathering tear; but smiles dispel the  
Dimming mist, and hearty, deafening cheers  
Succeed for "Auld Lang Syne" And well I know  
All hearts are young and kindlier grown, for  
This day's festive cheer. And now, in place of  
Highest honor, I behold the gray-haired  
Pioneer, whose glittering axe, and arms'  
Young strength, the mighty forest have subdued,  
And who has lived to see his chosen home  
The pride and glory of his sons. And here  
Are men of middle age, whose opening gaze  
Upon their "Mother Earth," took in her deep  
Dark wilds, her "vastly mountain steeps," whose

## A Leaf From My Journal

Evening lullaby, the hoarse wild wolves took  
Leave to join, but who have found among old  
Allegany's stumps and steeps, space to grow  
Stately and tall, and who have never blessed  
Another clime or soil, with the dear name  
Of home. The young I see, to whom all things  
Seem as they were from the beginning,  
And on whose wondering ear the story  
Of their grandsires' suffering toil, falls like  
Some fairy tale, that scarce may be believed.  
And toddling babes are here, who know not that  
They live at all, but pule and whine with all  
Sang froid, who deem the occasion quite  
Befit to prove that infant lungs are not  
Degenerate, nor infant appetites appeased  
With speeches fine, or sight of sausage of  
Whatever length or weight. In short, they are  
The only things (excuse me mothers if

I call them *things*, it best doth suit the  
Measure of my verse), as I have said,  
They are the only things the touch of time  
Or chance has left unchanged, and all admit  
They are the most perfect counterparts of  
Babies fifty years ago—

But hark! the welcome sound, "to dinner now,"  
Befogs me brain. Report me absent, Muse,

—*From The Weekly News Letter.*

Rushford, N. Y., Saturday, Feb. 5, 1859.



# Great Celebrations

## RUSHFORD CENTENNIAL AND HOME COMING WEEK

**C**OMMITTEES appointed for One Hundredth Anniversary and Home Coming Week:

Executive Committee—W. W. Bush, J. G. Benjamin, L. J. Thomas, R. B. Laning, O. T. Wilmot.

General Committee, one from each school district:

District No. 1.—E. C. Gilbert and H. B. Ackerly.

District No. 2.—R. M. Wilmarth.

District No. 3.—D. W. Gilbert.

District No. 4.—S. B. Williams.

District No. 5.—J. D. Hill.

District No. 6.—B. F. Babbitt.

District No. 7.—Frank Hogg.

District No. 8.—Newell McCall.

District No. 9.—Grant Smith.

District No. 10.—Albert Warren.

District No. 11.—Roy Taylor.

District No. 12.—Dean Gordon.

District No. 13.—C. C. Proctor.

District No. 14.—Charles Moon.

Committee for Farmers' Day—Dean Gordon, Roy Taylor, O. T. Wilmot, S. E. Kilmer.

Historical Committee—Mrs. Helen Gilbert.

Committee on Program for Historical Day—Mrs. Helen Gilbert, W. W. Bush, Jas. G. Benjamin.

Committee on School Day—Miss Ellen Lyman, Mrs. Catherine Tarbell, Miss Katherine Baldwin, Greydon Davis.

Committee on Church Day—Miss Ellen Gordon, M. E. Church; Mrs. S. E. Taylor, Baptist Church; Mrs. D. S. Damon; and Millie Metcalf, Free Methodist Church.

## Centennial and Home Coming Week

Committee on G. A. R. Day—A. L. Litchard, John R. Heald, W. W. Bush.

Village Improvement Committee—The Executive Committee.

Committee on Streets and Walks—B. D. Kyes, District No. 4; Thomas Atwell, District No. 6; W. S. Mulliken, District No. 6½; Claud Nye, District No. 12; Will Cooper, District No. 32.

Committee on Music—W. W. Thomas, W. F. Benjamin, A. J. Lyon.

Committee on Amusements—Wm. W. Bush, L. E. Hardy, John Benjamin.

Auditing Committee—L. E. Hardy W. H. Thomas, Charles Weaver.

Committee on Refreshments—W. H. Thomas, F. G. Gordon, E. C. Gilbert.

Committee to see to collecting old papers, magazines, books, etc., and to sell same and hand proceeds to the Treasurer—L. J. Thomas, John Benjamin.

Committee to look after old relics and to take care of them and to appoint or select assistants as he may need—Frank Board.

Old Home Week opened Sunday with services at the M. E. church, Rev. H. C. Woods preaching a splendid sermon to a large congregation. On account of the repairs on the Baptist Church their services were held at Academy Hall where Rev. E. O. Taylor preached a fine sermon.

Services were also held at the F. M. Church in the morning when a history of the church was read. In the evening Rev. H. C. Woods preached a fine sermon.

## Great Celebrations

The afternoon exercises at Academy Hall, which were union services, were largely attended, the hall being crowded. After a short song service, Rev. T. P. Poate conducted the scripture reading, the 23rd Psalm being repeated by the audience, after which Rev. F. A. Johnson offered prayer. After singing, Miss Millie Metcalf read the remarks which Mrs. Cornelia Metcalf had intended to make but was not able to do so, although she occupied a place on the platform. Rev. N. E. Heald gave a short address followed by singing and an address by Rev. Arthur Warren. Rev. H. C. Woods read a short tribute written by Rev. F. E. Woods who was unable to be present. After another song by the choir, Mrs. Minerva Roberts told of some of the early residents who had been a great help to her, followed by a few reminiscences by Rev. H. C. Woods. Another song followed after which Rev. E. O. Taylor addressed the audience. After singing "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" Rev. H. C. Woods pronounced the benediction,

The W. C. T. U. medal contest at the hall Monday evening was largely attended and the program was very good. Music was furnished by the orchestra. Mrs. R. T. Brooks sang a solo which was very fine. A male quartette—Messrs. Robert Warren, S. E. Wilmot, D. D. Gordon, and Eben Haynes, also furnished music and Robert Woods sang a solo. There were seven contestants for the medal—Clare Davis, Florence Brady, Newton Hadley, Helen Taylor, Ethel Stearns, Leighton Morris, and Imogene Lane. The judges awarded the medal to Imogene Lane.

—Rushford *Spectator*

## Centennial and Home Coming Week

FARMERS' DAY, AUGUST 18, 1908

### AFTERNOON PROGRAM, 1 P. M.

Music .....	Band
Prayer .....	Rev. T. P. Poate
Music .....	Orchestra
Address .....	Surface, Soil and Forests Eugene Hammond, Cuba, N. Y.
Song .....	Choir
Address .....	The Dairying Industry D. B. Sill, Cuba, N. Y.
Recitation .....	Miss Kate Proctor
Music .....	Orchestra
History .....	Rushford Cheese Factory Dr. H. C. Elmer, Ithaca, N. Y.
Five-minute speeches by old Rushford Farmers.	
Music .....	Band

### EVENING PROGRAM, 7:30 P. M.

Music .....	Orchestra
Recitation .....	Miss Imogene Lane
Song .....	Quartet
Address .....	Eugene Hammond, Cuba, N. Y.
Recitation .....	Ely Mulliken
Music .....	Orchestra
Address .....	Rev. Arthur Warren, Butler, Pa.
Music .....	Band

CENTENNIAL DAY, WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19, 1908

### AFTERNOON PROGRAM, 1 P. M.

Music .....	Orchestra
Address by President.....	W. W. Bush

## Great Celebrations

Response ..... Rev. H. C. Woods  
 Song, Home Sweet Home .... Double Quartet  
 Eneas Gary.....Rev. F. E. Woods  
 The Gordons ..... Miss Ellen Gordon  
     (Reader, Miss Genevieve McCall.)  
 Song, The Old Oaken Bucket....Double Quartet  
 The Woods ..... Mrs. Ira Calkins  
 Song, Away to the Woods .... Double Quartet  
 The Pioneers ..... Mrs. E. C. Gilbert  
 Recitation from Snow Bound..Miss Mary Johnson  
 Song, Annie Laurie ..... Double Quartet  
 The McCalls ..... Mrs. A. M. Taylor  
 Reminiscences ..... J. B. Jewell  
     (Reader, Allan H. Gilbert.)  
 Song, Cousin Jedediah ..... Double Quartet  
 Casualties ..... J. G. Benjamin  
 Music ..... Orchestra

### EVENING PROGRAM, 7:30 P. M.

Music ..... Orchestra  
 The Early Settlers ..... Mrs. E. C. Gilbert  
 The Old Time Customs       Mrs. W. W. Merrill  
 Song, Home Again ..... Double Quartet  
 Movements ..... Miss Ellen Lyman  
 Reminiscences and Characteristics.....  
     ..... Mrs. Helen Judd  
     (Reader, Mrs. A. E. White.)  
 Song, Comin' Thro' the Rye .... Double Quartet  
 Recitation, The Old Band .... Greydon R. Davis  
 Music, Poor Nellie Gray ..... Band  
 Reminiscences ..... Mrs. Cornelia G. Green  
 The Semi-Centennial ..... Mrs. E. C. Gilbert  
     (Reader, Allan H. Gilbert.)



## Centennial and Home Coming Week

Poem by Mrs. Cynthia Woodworth .....	
.....	Mrs. R. T. Brooks
Song, Auld Lang Syne .....	By the Audience
Our Bells .....	Miss Katherine Baldwin
Our Newspapers .....	E. C. Gilbert
Song, Long, Long Ago .....	Double Quartet
Reminiscences of East Rushford, Kelloggville and Rush Creek .....	A. B. Ackerly
Music .....	Band

## SCHOOL DAY, AUGUST 20, 1908

### AFTERNOON PROGRAM, I P. M.

Grand Parade, headed by the Rushford Cornet Band, the pupils of each district in the Town of Rushford, the graduates of the Rushford High School and the Philomathean Society of the Rushford Academy will march the length of Main street to the school grounds where short exercises will be held.

Music .....	Duet
Anna Merrill and Elsie Tarbell.	
History of the School. ....	Miss Ellen Lyman
Music .....	Solo
Robert Woods.	

Remarks by Representatives of the several School Societies

Philomathean .....	W. F. Bement
Mystic .....	Mrs. M. E. Roberts
Polyhymnian ....	Miss Myrtie E. Nye
Present Philomathean..	Miss Kate Proctor
Music .....	Duet
Anna Merrill and Elsie Tarbell	

## Great Celebrations

Reminiscences of School Life by former Principals and Students.

Music ..... Quartet  
Millie C. Metcalf, Jennie Wilmot, Charles  
Damon, Robert Woods.

## THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE RUSHFORD HIGH SCHOOL

EVENING PROGRAM, 7:30 P. M.

Music ..... Orchestra  
Niobe, Overture, Mackie Beyer.

Address of Welcome .... Winifred Merrill '06

Response ..... Grover James '08

Song ..... Alumni

Original Poem ..... Lucy M. Poate '02

Paper ..... Cora Beaumont '89

My Trip to the Black Hills.

Piano Solo ..... Anna Merrill '04

La Czarine, Louis Ganne.

Recitation ..... Helen Murray '06

An Old Sweetheart of Mine.

Greetings from Absent Alumni Members

.....Reader, Allan Gilbert '03

Music ..... Orchestra

Diamond Necklace Overture, J. Hermann.

Remarks ..... Friend and Members of Alumni

Song ..... Alumni

Music ..... Orchestra

Koontown Koonlets.

Adjournment of Members of Alumni Association  
to Informal Reception at Agricultural Hall.

Centennial and Home Coming Week  
SOLDIERS' AND G. A. R. DAY, FRIDAY,  
AUGUST 21

MORNING.

11 a. m.—Visiting and other comrades will report  
to G. A. R. Headquarters for registration.  
Noon—Dinner.

AFTERNOON.

1:15 p. m.—Veterans will form in line and march  
to the hall.

1:30 p. m.—Music by the band.

Prayer ..... Rev. F. A. Johnson

Music ..... Orchestra

Address .....

Past Department Commander Judge Swift

Honor Roll.....Comrade W. W. Bush  
Quartet.

Addresses by State Department Chaplain, Rev.  
H. C. Woods, and others.

EVENING.

7:00—Lighting of Camp Fires.

7:30—Music by Band, and march to hall.

Prayer—Rev. Mr. Poate.

Quartet.

Addresses .....

.... Rev. J. G. Macklin and Rev. T. F. Parker

Music ..... Orchestra

Address.....Past Dept. Com. Judge H. J. Swift

Address..State Dept. Chaplain, Rev. H. C. Woods

Music.

Benediction ..... Rev. H. C. Woods

## Great Celebrations

Visiting delegates will be entertained both day and night by Woodworth Post.

BY ORDER OF COMMITTEE.

### SPECTATOR COMMENTS, ETC.

WE have been unable to find any words in Webster's or the Standard dictionaries that express the measure of the success of Rushford's Old Home Week or the good time we all had. Words are entirely inadequate. It was simply the greatest event in the history of the town and we doubt if any town ever had such a good time. There was no dissension of any kind. Everybody here was happy and united in making everybody else happy. Our love for the people who have been absent from Rushford for various years and their affection for the old town and friends just filled the air with good cheer—so much so that even the strangers within our gates felt its effect and all report a grand good time.

The start last week Tuesday showed plainly that the success of the occasion was a great deal more than we had ventured to hope. Each day seemed to add to the crowds and the interest, and Friday, Patriotic Day, closed the grand week of festivities in a whirlwind of glory and enthusiasm galore.

The Midway at the lower end of Main Street was well patronized.

Wednesday there were more than two thousand people on Main Street.

The descendants of Eneas Gary, held an informal reception at the close of the exercises Wednesday afternoon, at the home of Mrs. F. A. Jagers, in honor of Mrs. Achsah Griffin Champlin, the only granddaughter represented.



Mr. and Mrs. Irving McCall



## Great Celebrations

### IMPRESSIONS OF OLD HOME WEEK.

Judge H. J. Swift says it was the most delightful time he has had in years.

Rev. Henry Clay Woods says: It was the greatest week of a life time, living over a century's experiences in six days.

Editor Spectator:—

Will you kindly give me room enough in your column to extend to the people of Rushford my congratulations on their achievements of the past week?

I had expected that the week would be a great success, but was wholly unprepared for such a celebration as we have had. I have been constantly amazed at the grand scale of the preparations and the remarkable attention that has been given to minutest details. Everyone acting on the various committees seemed to be just the person for the place and performed his or her duty in a manner that showed at every point the master hand.

To have conceived such a celebration and to have carried it through with such spirit and vim required executive and organizing ability of a high order, and I, for one, cannot refrain from expressing my appreciation of what has been accomplished.

Yours very sincerely,

H. C. ELMER.

FROM MRS. ALICE GORDON HOOKER.

Old Home Week has come and gone and the event will always be remembered with pleasure by all who were present. Everything passed off harmoniously and the spirit of hospitality prevailed throughout the entire week. I believe the occasion was one of pleasure and enjoyment

## Centennial and Home Coming Week

to all the old home-comers and it was a great pleasure to me to meet so many of the old residents.

I wish to express my appreciation of what has been accomplished during Old Home Week at my old home.

Very sincerely yours,

ALICE GORDON HOOKER.

### LETTER FROM C. W. PERSONS.

Jamestown, N. Y., Dec. 28, 1908.

Dear Editor:—

Your Old Home Week was certainly a grand success and more. You almost made us ashamed to receive so much at your hands free gratis, but you surely showed yourselves anything but degenerate sons of noble sires.

Yours truly,

C. WESLEY PERSONS.

Things that followed in the wake of Rushford's Centennial:

1. A knowledge of what Rushford people are able to do if united.

2. Many post-cards.

3. A date from which to reckon.

4. Many pleasant memories.

5. The marriage of Mary Calkins, granddaughter of Watson Woods, and Irving McCall, grandson of Dr. Wm. McCall and Dan Peck.

6. The book *Rushford and Rushford People*.

## Great Celebrations

### THE RELICS

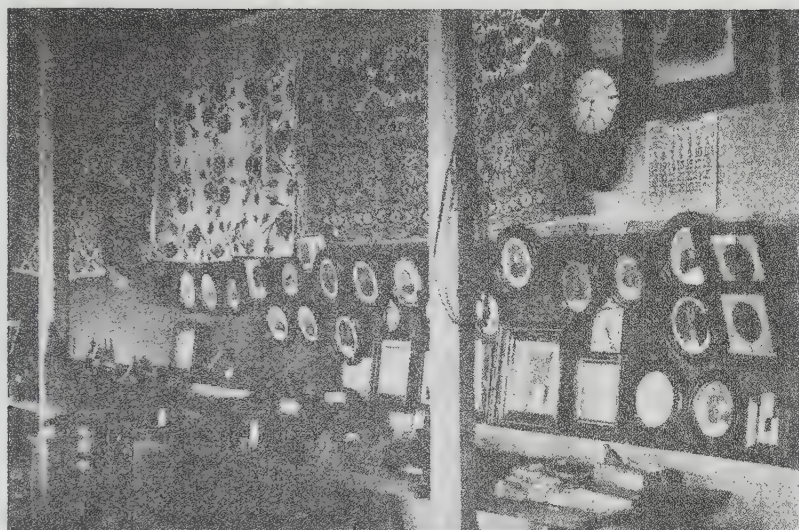
H. J. W. G.

THIS department of the Centennial was under the charge of Frank Board. A large number of relics connected with the early history of the town were brought by old families and placed on exhibition in the two west rooms of the Academy. In and out of these rooms visitors were constantly passing. At the right as one entered, were pictures galore of early settlers and former residents. Hanging high on the same side was a blue and white coverlet that once belonged to Mrs. Charles Benjamin. It was woven in Warsaw in 1839, the year of her marriage. The yarn of which it was made was spun at home and part of it was colored in the blue dye tub. Next to the coverlet was an effective bed quilt made by Mrs. Benjamin. The red roses, green leaves and stems of this quilt were hemmed onto white blocks and stuffed with cotton before the blocks were set together and the fine quilting done. Besides these, two pewter platters over a hundred years old, and two small hair trunks, once belonging to Levi Benjamin, were brought by Mrs. Arcelia Hall.

In the Crocker collection was a blue and white coverlet—the blue, wool, the white, linen—made by Mrs. Sally Frost, great grandmother of Mrs. Caroline Crocker; a white bed-spread heavily tufted in various patterns, with white cotton yarn, made by Mrs. Nancy Crocker; a pine cradle in which Oramel Crocker was rocked, and a Bible so old that the letter “s” was long.

A carpenter’s tool, now rarely seen, was a broad-ax, at one time the property of Deacon Samuel Westcott, who was born in 1781. Near the fireplace with its two hanging kettles, hung a warming pan, about one foot in diameter

## The Relics



Among the Relics

and four or five inches deep, with a perforated copper cover and a long wooden handle. It was brought to Rushford in 1834 by Deacon Urian Westcott, father of the late Deacon Cyrus Westcott.

A preacher was to pass the night at the home of one of his parishioners. He stepped out, and, since the night was cold, the good housewife thought she would take the opportunity to warm his bed; so, putting some coals from the fireplace into the warming pan she hastened to the room where he was to sleep and quickly thrust the pan between the sheets. The preacher was in the bed.

In the fireplace in the south relic room were andirons on which to place the wood, and near at hand was a Dutch oven or roasting kitchen, a tin box-like arrangement with handles and a shelf. It was open on the side to be placed

## Great Celebrations

toward the fire, on the opposite side was a little door which could be opened when basting the meat.

There was also a cradle made of a piece of log hollowed out on one side; the rockers were made of a barrel head split in two. This brought to mind the sap trough cradles of pioneer days.

Near the south windows stood a high four-post cord bedstead with canopy top and valance. The bed was made up with a straw and a feather bed, hand woven and hand made linen sheets, patchwork quilt, blue and white coverlet and small pillows. This bedstead was once the Rev Thomas Pratt's; it is now Mrs. J. G. Benjamin's.

Hanging on the wall of the south room was a quilt of 840 pieces, pieced by Mrs. Alice Bartow Davis the last year of her life. When she celebrated the hundredth anniversary of her birthday, six generations were present. A representative of each generation formed a group which was photographed. The youngest sat in the great-great-grandmother's lap. This picture was also on exhibition. Alice Bartow Davis, grandmother of Hiram Kellogg, was born December 14, 1783. She died in Rushford October 28, 1884.

Among the exhibits was a board over three feet in width, sawed by O. D. Benjamin and C. G. Leavens from the sixth log of a tree that was bought of Aaron Rice for one dollar.

A horse fork of the early type was brought to the rooms by Thomas Williams. When in use, the large four-tined fork was pushed by the foot into the hay which was carried to the desired place by means of horse power. Mr. Williams also brought a winnowing scoop. This belonged to the period when the wind blew the chaff from the grain.



## The Relics

The tall clock that once ticked for Oliver D. Benjamin stood with its face toward the crowd, but was silent.

The swingles were wooden knives about two feet long used to beat flax to take out any small particles of bark left by the flax-brake. The flax must be as dry as tinder when swingled. The hetchels were boards set with many long iron teeth. The flax was dampened and drawn through the hetchels, thus the long fibers were laid into continuous threads and the tow or short fibers combed out. One of the most pleasing sights in the Relic Rooms was Mrs. Christiann Belknap seated at her little wheel with her foot on the treadle, the flax wrapped around the spindle, spinning the fiber into a long, even thread. On the wheel was a cup of water in which she moistened her fingers as she spun the flax which by the movement of the wheel was wound around the bobbins.

The wool cards were two rectangular pieces of thin board with handles; to each board was fastened a smaller rectangle of leather set with slightly bent iron teeth. These were used to card the wool into long, slender rolls. The large wheel was used for spinning the soft, fleecy rolls into yarn which was wound from the spindle into skeins on the reel. The wheel and the reel were the property of Mrs. Amanda Cady.

In the Newberry Eddy collection were a sickle, a Dutch neck-yoke used by Mr. Eddy on one of his teams when he drove through from Vermont, an iron skillet with long legs, a sausage gun which consisted of two parts, one part resembled an elongated, wooden potato masher, the other part was a tin cylinder with nozzle. In its palmy sausage-stuffing days the cylinder boasted of a pair of handles. There were also a wooden bread trav with cover, painted red.

## Great Celebrations

brought from Mt. Holly, Vermont, and a framed picture of Mr. Eddy, resembling his grandson, D. W. Gilbert.

In the Thomas collection were a saw purchased in Wales in 1808 by William G. Thomas, father of John J. Thomas; a Welsh Bible one hundred years old, and a pewter plate belonging to Mrs. Carrie Thompson. In colonial times pewter platters were found on every table. They were kept as bright as silver by being scoured with rushes.

Among the samplers was one made by Rosina Cleasby, the mother of Mrs. Jane White. It was a square of loosely woven brown linen on which were worked fancy stitches in various colors, the alphabet in three different kinds of letters, the numbers to thirteen, and the name Rosina Cleasby.

In the collection of combs was a large tortoise shell back-comb, semi-circular in form. In April, 1832, when Rosina Cleasby was married to Barnes Blanchard in Peacham, Vermont, this was one of her wedding gifts.

On one of the supports hung a portrait,

“Who the painter was none may tell,—  
One whose best was not over well.”

The child in the picture had yellow hair and a ghastly complexion. Although the face and body were posed for a front view, the feet were about to start in a side direction with an unknown gait. This was supposed to be the likeness of Mrs. Ellen White Hubbell when three years of age. It once adorned the home of Samuel White.

A curious relic was a large black frame decorated with black fruit, and with lilies, daisies, asters and petunias in black leather. Within the frame was a glass, on the back of which was painted a wreath of red roses, green leaves, tulips and small purple flowers. Back of the wreath was

## The Relics

tinsel, giving a sheen to the flowers. In the center of the glass was a small picture of Miss Harriet Jewell, sister of Mrs. W. W. Woodworth. This picture belonged to Mrs. Ida White Woods.

Allegany County maps of 1856 were on exhibition. Ossian was then the northeastern town of the county. On the map was a picture of Rushford Academy, the front yard of which was enclosed by a picket fence. There were then no verandas, but on all sides of the building were windows of a third story; the roof was dignified by a balustrade, and the cupola was ornamented by green lattice on the sides and scrolls on the top.

Framed and hung on one of the columns was a fresh looking handbill, giving the names of the officers, the committee of arrangements, and the program of the Semi Centennial. It belonged to Frank Board.

After the Centennial, a tag was picked up bearing these words, "Mrs. E. C. Gilbert—Age not known." It had been on a foot-stove in one of the Relic Rooms. A foot-stove was a perforated tin box in a wooden frame to which was fastened a bail; in the box was an iron pan for coals. In the days when there were no stoves in the churches, foot-stoves were carried to church by women and children.

C. F. Mason contributed to the collection a fire-pan, made of iron, formerly used to carry coals from the neighbors when one's fire had gone out. In form it resembled a corn popper.

An interesting relic was a pair of handcuffs, because "thereby hangs a tale." B—r was arrested by Constable Simon Gordon for breaking into the store of Lyman Congdon and stealing boots and shoes. He was held in custody at the lower hotel. A pair of handcuffs were needed, so, although it was Sunday, Chauncey McDonald at once

## Great Celebrations

made a pair in his shop. DeWitt McDonald, then about seven years old, was in the shop at the time. He remembers going to the hotel with his father to see the fetters riveted and bolted onto the burglar.

Near old firearms was a horn, which Frank Board said Bowen Gordon used to help save his country. Mrs. Seward Mulliken sent to the Rooms a bundle of papers, the *News Letter*, published in Rushford in 1859. The paper was taken by her father, J. E. Bixby.

Perforated tin lanterns that once contained "the light of other days" were there. The candle molds were six or twelve upright tin cylinders in two rows fastened to a base and connected at the top. When candles were to be made, across the top of the molds were placed two rods from which hung wick into each cylinder. Into the molds was poured the melted tallow which when cold made smooth hard candles.

There were pieces of mulberry pink and white, blue and white, and black and white crockery; specimens of hand made embroidery; caps for babies and old fashioned bonnets, conspicuous among which was a barndoor bonnet of white leghorn trimmed within and without with white gauze ribbon. One of our poets referred to such a bonnet when he said "a face adown a leghorn lane." It was the wedding bonnet of the first Mrs. Dr. Russell Trall; she came to Rushford as a bride. It belonged to Miss Emily Higgins.

In a case near a front window, side by side, were two beautiful bead bags upon which many women cast longing eyes.

Wilbur Freeman had for inspection an "article" given by the Holland Land Company to Josiah Freeman. Eneas

## Music of Old Home Week

Gary seemed to be local agent for the company, since receipts for payments upon land were signed by him.

In one of the cases was a smooth thin piece of wood about three inches wide and ten or twelve inches long, which fashion once decreed should be worn as a front support in a woman's corset.

Framed and under glass was one of J. B. Gordon's baby dresses. It was made out of his Grandmother Gary's wedding dress; through the cream colored ground of the fabric ran a heavy crimson vine.

There was the tall clock of Mrs. Nancy Gary Woods ticking as in the days when it stood in the farm house in Podonque. A picture of the "first white woman," bringing to mind her grandson, the Rev. H. C. Woods of Bath, was happily hung upon the door of the clock.

"Through days of sorrow and of mirth,  
Through days of death and days of birth,  
Through every swift vicissitude  
Of changeful time, unchanged it has stood  
And as if, like God, it all things saw,  
It calmly repeats those words of awe,—  
Forever—never!  
Never—forever!"

## THE CHOIRS, THE ORCHESTRA, THE DOUBLE QUARTET AND THE BAND OF OLD HOME WEEK

Clara Elizabeth Poate—Helen J. White Gilbert

ON Sunday, a chorus composed of the church choirs of the village and led by D. W. Woods rendered hymns of the older times in a manner calculated to arouse memories of long ago. Among the many familiar hymns were:



## Great Celebrations

"Joy to the World," "Coronation," and "Come, Thou Almighty King." Others, though not so well known, thrilled one with their power. Among these were "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night," and "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand." Another still less familiar, "Show Pity, Lord, O Lord Forgive," a good old Methodist hymn, was sung in slow and dirge-like manner fitted to its dismal import.

As was the custom in years gone by, the singing was, as far as possible, congregational. Everyone joined in with zest. The older ones gladly lent their voices to swell the chorus and thus each one derived peculiar pleasure in feeling himself a part of this, the first day of Old Home Week.

In the record of Rushford's Old Home Week, the Rushford Orchestra must not be forgotten. Mrs. F. C. Ballard acted as pianist. Dr. Ballard and Mrs. John A. James played first violin, Miss Helen Taylor second violin, Dean Gordon trombone, Fred Woods clarinet, William Burton first cornet, Miss Bessie Thomas second cornet, A. J. Lyon drum.

The faithfulness and skill which they evinced and the readiness with which they did their part afforded great pleasure.

One of the most delightful features of Centennial Day was the singing of old songs by the Double Quartet, the personnel of which was Mrs. F. G. Gordon and Mrs. N. M. Woods, soprano; Mrs. William W. Bush and Miss Marena Woods, alto; Dr. E. D. Kilmer and Fred K. Woods, tenor; D. W. Woods and A. P. Benjamin, bass. There were the songs, "Home, Sweet Home," "Home Again," and "Long, Long Ago" that appealed tenderly to many present; that beautiful song, "The Old Oaken Bucket;" the sweet love songs, "Comin' thro' the Rye" and "Annie Laurie;" the breezy song, "Awav to the Woods," and the rollicking

## Music of Old Home Week

"Cousin Jedediah," with its "Jerusha, put the kettle on, W'ell all take tea."

One of the most satisfactory results of the Centennial was the revival of the Rushford Cornet Band, the members of which were as follows: W. F. Benjamin, leader, E flat cornet; Wm. Burton, solo cornet; Dr. E. D. Kilmer, solo cornet; Fred K. Woods, clarinet; Kendall Hardy, first cornet; Greydon R. Davis, second cornet; Clare R. Davis, second cornet; Miner Taylor, third cornet; Stephen Wilmot, tenor cornet; Clare Gere, slide trombone; D. D. Gordon, valve trombone; DeWitt C. Stone, solo alto; Roy Washbon, solo alto; Arthur Alderman, second alto; W. W. Thomas, baritone; Clarence Thomas, baritone; Warren Hadley, tuba; A. J. Lyon, snare drum; D. W. Woods, bass drum.

Old Home Week wouldn't be Old Home Week without the band; so early in the year horns were collected and made as good as new, others were purchased, and for months practising was going on and the hearts of the people were made glad by the music. Wm. Burton, then living in Rushford, not only added the music of his own cornet, but by suggestions improved the music of the whole. So when the celebration opened all were ready. Though the band was three times on the program Farmers' Day, twice Centennial Day, and twice Soldiers' and G. A. R. Day, that was a small part of what they did; in the parades, in the streets, on the Academy lawn, and at the ball games their cheering strains were heard. Guests at the homes of C. J. Elmer and W. W. Bush were honored with their serenades. Sometimes the music of the horn would give way to the melody of their voices. To Rushford people it seemed as if "there were never strains of music just like our band made."

## Great Celebrations

All the week they had been doing serious work, so at the close they gave themselves up to a frolic. The merry-go-round was taken by storm and merrily round they went to the music of their own making. Our dignified Dr. Kilmer, mounted on a hobby-horse, had considerable difficulty keeping his lips to the mouthpiece of his horn. All the while the manager was looking on with a half-astonished, half-amused expression. The moving picture show was next visited, and as the pictures were being exhibited, when the word was given, they would vigorously clap their hands. The fortune-teller closed her tent and "silently stole away" ere her visitors came. It was a happy thought to visit the homes of the Executive, School Day and Historical Committees. From house to house they went, not forgetting the Marshal, giving joy to the hearts of the committees both by their music and their cheers. As they passed on one could hear in the distance the strains of "Marching through Georgia." Finally they reached the camp-fire in front of the Academy and there by the dying fire they played the last piece of Old Home Week.

The names of the different early settlers from whom seven members of the double quartet of Old Home Week descended are given below: Mrs. Jennie Gordon, W. D. Woods, Fred K. Woods and Marena Woods, descended from Joshua Wilson and Daniel Woods; Fred K. Woods and Marena Woods, from Samuel White; Mrs. William W. Bush, from Abel Tarbell; Samuel Persons, Elijah Metcalf and Robert English; Earl D. Kilmer, from James Kendall and Ephriam Morrison; Abram P. Benjamin, from Abraham J. Lyon, Daniel Kingsbury, James Gordon and Levi Benjamin.

## Great Celebrations ~ FARMERS' PARADE

R. M. Wilmarth

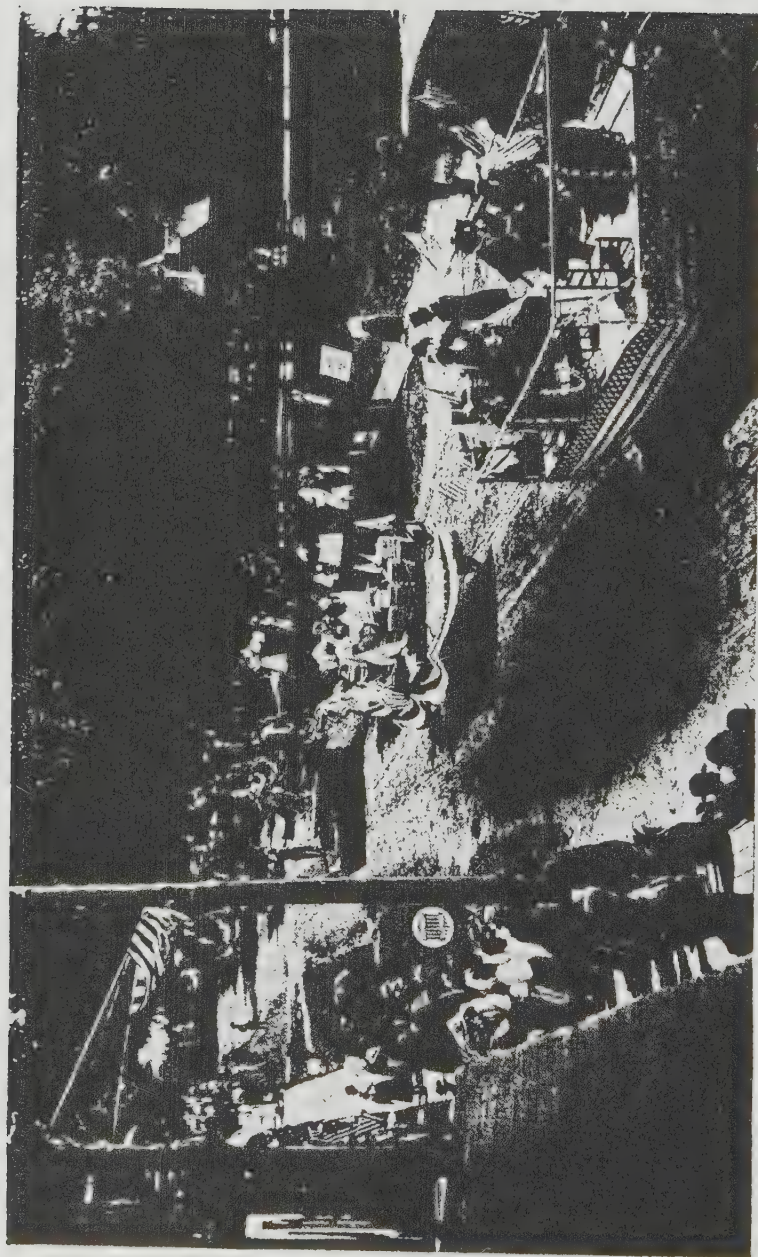
THE committee appointed for Farmers' Day were Dean Gordon, Roy Taylor, O. T. Wilmot and S. E. Kilmer. O. T. Wilmot acted as chairman.

At half-past ten o'clock in the morning, on the day appointed, Romain Benjamin was seen coming up the street on horseback, dressed as marshal of the day. This meant the Farmers' Parade had started. Six Indians, also on horseback, were next seen. Their costumes were so complete that it was difficult to tell who they were. Then came the wagon carrying the Rushford Cornet Band. Their countenances said plainly that they had mastered the fight and were ready to furnish first-class music during the week. The line of floats and company of men took the street, the police were lined up, and the parade went on amid throngs of spectators.

Following the band was a covered wagon, driven by Floyd Bosworth, representing early settlers coming to Rushford. Attached to this wagon was a three-pail kettle which came from Victor, New York, eighty years ago. Such a wagon is now called a prairie schooner.

The first float was arranged by R. W. Wilmarth and his neighbors in school district number two, known as the English district. It carried about fourteen young people of this district, all dressed in old style costumes, representing an old time wedding. One young man wore Benny Leonard's wedding suit which was about ninety years old. The principal characters were Arlie Lewis, bride; R. J. Wilson, groom; Mary Baldwin, maid of honor; Alexander Nesbit, best man, and George Perry, officiating clergyman. The float was finely decorated with bunting and flags.





Farmers' Parade—Old Home Week

—Courtesy of O. W. Kellog



## Farmers' Parade

Float number two was arranged by E. R. Belknap and E. Stone of Hardy's Corners. The team was a span of oxen owned and driven by Clair Agett of Farmersville. The float represented a husking bee and dance of the olden time. The costumes were old; and there were plenty of ears of red corn in evidence. One would notice especially the violinist (Wm. L. Cooper) on this float. He looked like a minister of the gospel.

Float number three was driven by Jay Vaughan. On this wagon was an ash log which was being split into fence rails by Elijah Lyman. Although without decoration, this float was perfect in every respect.

Float number four, driven by Wilbur Powell, was loaded with hemlock logs. The bark was being taken off the logs for tanning purposes by Walter Howard, Alva Powell and others. The bark spud and cant-hook attracted attention.

Following this float was a company of men, some twenty in number, carrying sickles, scythes, grain cradles, wooden pitchforks, flails, winnowing scoops, in fact all the implements used in cutting and threshing crops in the primitive style. The guard with this company carried flintlock muskets and an old-time lantern.

After this company came a number of different kinds of modern farming implements, furnished by A. M. Tarbell and E. C. Gilbert, among which were a sulky plow, a grain drill, a land roller, a reaper and binder, a side-delivery hay rack and a hay loader.

Float number five was designed and driven by Harry Cole and William Westfall of Rush Creek. This represented an old time threshing outfit. The grain in the sheaf was threshed with flails and cleaned with winnowing scoops or with a fanning mill.

Next came a modern threshing machine, a traction

## Great Celebrations

steam engine with tank-wagon and separator, furnished by Clyde Colburn of East Rushford. Jay McElheney was the engineer. Knowles Baldwin preceded the rig with a lantern.

Float number six was designed by Dezell Hill to show the mode of dairying years ago. Here were the wooden trough for milk, the wooden milk pail, the wooden dash churn, the wooden butter bowl with ladle, an old-fashioned cast-iron dairy stove which was used for heating milk to make cheese, and a wooden cheese press.

Float number seven was planned by Roy Taylor. On this were modern utensils for dairying purposes, such as a tin pail, a centrifugal cream separator, a barrel butter churn, wooden molds for fancy butter prints, paper boxes for butter bricks, a milk cooler, a cheese press—in fact everything in this line that is up to date.

Mr. Hill and Mr. Taylor are numbered among the best dairymen in the old town of Rushford, which has always been considered one of the best dairying sections in Western New York, the natural advantages of which are good pastures, good land, good water and good people.

Float number eight, from East Rushford, was arranged by Hiram Daley, Charles Moon, Fred McElheney and others. It represented a paring-bee in which about fifteen East Rushford people were rapidly paring and quartering apples, stringing the quarters, and hanging them in the sun to dry. A dance followed the paring-bee. This was one of the most elaborate floats in the parade.

Float number nine, furnished by George Cole, was an ancient horse and cart driven by Miss Daisy Chaplin as bridegroom and Miss Arlie Jenks as bride. They were dressed in old style costumes. Most striking were the boots of the bridegroom and the beauty of the bride. Photographs of this float should be handed down to the next Centennial.

## Farmers' Parade

The one-horse carriage decorated with flowers and driven by Harrie Hall with his lady, was a sight never to be forgotten. It was one of the finest floral displays ever seen in Rushford. May this young man's path ever be strewn with flowers.

Following the floats was a long line of farmers with their families in modern carriages. There were twenty-five or thirty rigs, double and single.

At noon the parade is past. Dinner is over. But what do we hear? The people are asking, "Is this all we are to see of the Farmers' Parade?" "Why not repeat it?" So on the following Friday, August 21, G. A. R. Day, it was repeated.

This day the parade, led by the Woodworth G. A. R. Post in carriages, was the Farmers' and School Parades combined with some omissions and some additions.

In the parade of Tuesday and Friday was the drug and grocery wagon of E. C. Gilbert drawn by Tony and Dell who had laid aside their plain matter-of-fact business air and were festive in their holiday attire of flags and bunting.

The load of pine stumps bearing the placard, "There'll be a hot time in the old town tonight" was a unique way of advertising the camp-fire of the evening.

Not the least attractive feature of the mixed parade was W. F. Benjamin's delivery wagon covered with a profusion of draperies of cheese cloth and crepe paper, with golden glow nodding from every available space. The horses, driven by G. W. Benjamin, entered heartily into the frolic, making a fine appearance with their gay decorations of golden glow. The load was composed of members of the Cynthian Club dressed in white and carrying large bouquets of yellow flowers. Taking part in the parade was

## Great Celebrations

suggested only about an hour before the appointed time, but automobiles, telephones and the nimble fingers of the members, assisted by friends from Bradford, Camden and Cuba, made it possible for the club to appear.—L.

Two automobiles driven by W. F. Benjamin of Rushford and E. F. Benson of Buffalo carried the Rushford ball nine.

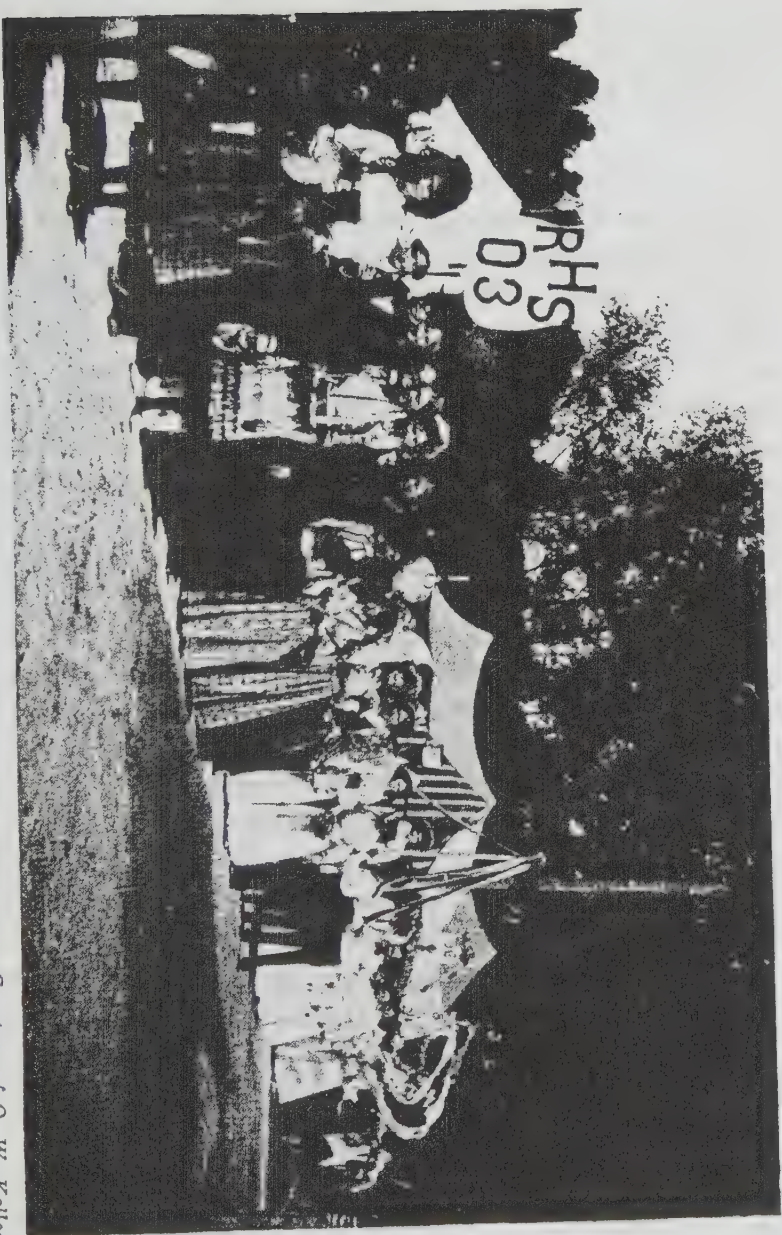
There was also a troop of fifty men on horseback arranged by A. B. Davis. The Indians made a dash down Main Street followed by a troop of horsemen firing guns and revolvers. This dash was exciting, but everyone came out alive and well.

## SCHOOL DAY PARADE

Lucy Marsh Poate—Clara Elizabeth Poate—Allan H. Gilbert

THE parade which opened the exercises of School Day was under the direction of Mrs. Catherine Tarbell, to the admirable taste and unusual administrative talent of whom was due much of its excellence. At half-past two the line formed in front of Agricultural Hall. First came a band of school children all clad in white and bearing American flags. Then followed in order of years, beginning with the most recent, the graduating classes of Rushford High School and Rushford Union School. They were followed by those of an earlier time, the representatives of the second Philomathean Literary Society. To the music of the band the parade moved slowly down the north side of Main Street between lines of eager onlookers. The procession (after a pause for the taking of photographs) then passed up the other side of Main Street as far as the Academy where were held the concluding exercises of the parade





Old Home Week, Rushford, School Day Parade

—Courtesy of O. W. Kellogg.



## Great Celebrations

before the porch as a reviewing stand. As each class was called upon by R. W. Benjamin, the marshal, it marched up to the stand and gave its stunt.

1908.

First came and last did go the infant class, the babes of 1908. They had originally numbered eleven but owing to natural timidity, the masculine element did not parade. The more courageous maidens, by name Edith Howard, Gertrude and Estella Crowell, Ruth James, Martha Williams, Jennie Wilmot, Ethelyn Woods and Edith Poate, were gowned in dainty white with crimson sashes. Their braids were decorously tied with red ribbons. Vigorous research has been made after the stunt of this particular class but all efforts have proved unavailing. It is said to have consisted of a yell; doubtless the incoherent and unreasoning howl of infancy.

1907.

The four members of the class of 1907 who passed in review showed an interest in current events befitting recent graduates. Archie Lewis appeared in black frock coat and tall hat and bore a pennant inscribed "16 to 1." If this were not enough his tall hat was labelled "Bryan." Harrie Hall, similarly clad and much padded, carried a pennant lettered "G. O. P." and was proclaimed "Taft" by his hat band. The two young women of the class, Mary McFarland and Gwendolyn Gibby needed no peculiar costume when to appear in such distinguished company and so merely bore their banner, "'07." Before the reviewing stand Bryan and Taft announced, "One of us is sure to be President."

1906.

The class of 1906 was represented by five young ladies. Misses May Brady, Winifred Merrill, Helen Murray and

## School Day Parade

Mille Metcalf, attired in quaint, short-waisted, sprigged muslin gowns, were preceded by Miss Louisa Harris attired in white with purple cap and sash, bearing a large gold banner.

1905.

The class of 1905 recalled to us our childhood and the days when we loved so dearly the old familiar rhymes of "Mother Goose." Here was every one of those dear rhyme people, from Miss Grace Hardy attired as "Old Mother Goose" herself, to Miss Winifred Hill, who posed as poor, timid little "Miss Muffet." Charles Damon, as bad "Tom the Piper's son" with the pig beneath him arm, walked with little "Boy Blue," better known among us as William Calkins, while the "Fat Man from Bombay," Grover Babbitt, followed with the "Queen of Hearts," Elizabeth Poate. There was Marena Woods, dressed as "Little Bo Peep," with her crook, walking with "Jack Horner," Elliott Gibby. Then followed "Red Riding Hood," Frona Brockway, with a basket of good things for her grandmother, and Cora McElheney, the "maiden all forlorn," with milking pail and stool. Greydon Davis, as "Good King Cole, that merry old soul," was attended by his faithful fiddlers. John Brady as "Simple Simon" followed, and last of all came Clare Mason, as "Old Mother Hubbard" with her dog—that dog which from very hunger would never stay by his mistress, but wandered continually, in search of the missing bone. As they passed each in turn recited the rhyme connected with his history, then all gave the class yell.

1904.

The picture presented by the class of 1904, Misses Anna Merrill and Genevieve McCall, was peculiarly charming. These beautiful maids of sunny Spain, with dusky tresses and gleaming eyes, were attired in short red skirts

## Great Celebrations

and black laced bodices. Each carried a guitar and soon our ears were charmed by the familiar strains of Juanita sung by these sweet dancing girls of "Old Seville."

1903.

Next in order came six members of the class of 1903 dressed to represent people famous in the history of America. First in point of time was Pocahontas, personated by Grace Fuller (Mrs. Fred Miller). She wore a gaudy costume gleaming with beads and spangles and given an aboriginal touch by a headdress of waving feathers, and leggings trimmed with fringe. Next her was Priscilla Alden, represented by Katherine Baldwin in a simple costume suggesting the austerity of the Pilgrims. Ethel Tait, with powdered hair and black satin of antique fashion, appeared as Martha Washington. The following period was represented by Allan H. Gilbert in the character of Daniel Webster, with high silk hat and black cravat wound about the neck. Such particles of snuff as fell on his black frock coat from the box freely offered to the bystanders, were wiped away with a silk handkerchief carried in the crown of the hat. The period of the Civil War was taken by Genevieve Pratt who appeared as Barbara Frietchie, in the hoop skirts and tight bodice of the time, bearing the flag so dear to her. More recent days were represented by Kate Proctor whose severe black bonnet and freely brandished hatchet proclaimed her Carrie Nation. When the class of 1903 responded to roll call, Daniel Webster, bearing a white banner with the numerals of the class upon it in dark green, mounted the steps of the Academy, proclaimed, "Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable," and called upon the famous women of the class to respond with appropriate sentiments. The broken English of Pocahontas was

## School Day Parade

not easily understood, but the "Why don't you speak for yourself, John?" of Priscilla was unmistakable. Martha Washington spoke of the Father of His Country, "First in War, First in Peace, First in the Hearts of His Countrymen." Barbara Frietchie gave her well known, "Shoot if you must this gray old head but spare your country's flag." Carrie Nation cried out, "Smash the saloon!" Then the class gave its yell and passed on.

1902.

In the year 1901-1902, Rushford Union School was by some mysterious process apparently unproductive of change, transformed into Rushford High School. The first graduating class of the new institution was not large. In fact there was but one member and that a small one. On "School Day" the class of 1902 was heralded by a Japanese page, better known in Rushford circles as Donald Leavens. At his heels came the class proper who paraded Main Street in the guise of an aristocratic Japanese lady. Miss Poate's stunt consisted of a deep salaam to the judges and the following inspired utterances: "Teki teki no teki suri ambo so taki nudo."

1901.

The class of 1901 consisted of Mrs. Myrtie Metcalf Bush, Mrs. Ethel King Babcock and Miss Ruth Laning. They were gowned in quaint and charming costumes, which had figured in Rushford society years before the war. Demurely they walked along the way, with eyes cast down and folded hands. Deep courtesies they swept and then passed on with gentle grace and old-time dignity.

1900.

The class of 1900 was represented by but one of its members, Earl G. Taylor, who endeavored to atone for his

## Great Celebrations

solitary state by the scope of his representation for he appeared with his tall form attired in the garb attributed to the kindly personification of the spirit of our nation, Uncle Sam. From the straps which held down his trousers to the numerals on his tall hat, no colors appeared save those of the American flag.

1899.

One of the beneficent effects of education was portrayed by the class of 1899, represented by Carrie Tarbell and Frances Merrill garbed as Red Cross nurses. As every one knows, a uniform is of necessity becoming but these were unusually so.

1897.

One of the most charming features of the parade was the class of 1897, although only five of the original members were present. There were four young men, Clarence Thomas, Raymond Atwell, Earl Kilmer and Archie Taylor in white waists and red trousers and in their midst was the pony—we say *the* pony advisedly as Rushford readers will understand—on which rode Miss Bessie Thomas picturesquely gowned in red and white. From a banner borne aloft streamers extended to each young man. Viewed from the artistic standpoint, this class deserved, perhaps, more applause than any other.

1896.

Gold and white were the characteristic colors of Grace Claus Taylor, Grace Farwell Lynde, Edith Kendall Pettit, Mary Calkins (Mrs. Irving McCall) and Edna Merrill Thomas, the girls of '96. Like many of the other classes, they carried a standard inscribed with their numerals. Each member wore a beautiful garland of field daisies.



## School Day Parade

1895.

The class of '95 played a simple but undeniably pretty part in the parade. The four young ladies, Delia Mason (Mrs. Lyon), Inez Leavens, Rena Taylor and Rena Merrill Grove, wore huge pink and green hats. Each held a streamer attached to a banner proudly borne by Mr. Grover Hall, the one male representative of the class. A stanza of "School Days" was sung before the reviewing stand.

1889-1893

Next came, in cap and gown, Mrs. Margaret Kendall Pratt, Mrs. May Gordon Wilmot, Miss Cora Beaumont, Talcott Brooks and John Bush, the united classes of '89-'93. Very grave and dignified were our college men and maids, and proud indeed were we to call them ours.

### PHILOMATHEAN.

Last in the procession but by no means least conspicuous or least imbued with the spirit of the occasion came a group most of whom went to school in Rushford in the days of the second Philomathean Literary Society. Their costume led some at first glance to think them women but nearer approach dispelled all doubt in spite of sun bonnets, calico dresses and brooms, for as Sir Evans says in the "Merry Wives of Windsor," "I like not when a oman has a great peard; I spy a great peard under her muffler." W. H. Leavens appeared as an organ grinder and F. G. Gordon was leading a dog. Our dignified "Judge," R. B. Laning, drew a cart inscribed, "This is Bobbie Dusenberry and his little wagon." L. E. Hardy was standard bearer and E. C. Gilbert rode a broom stick which cut great capers. The others were B. F. Babbitt, H. E. Tarbell, Wm. Ingelby, Lucian Benjamin, B. D. Kyes, Alex Conway and

## Great Celebrations

W. H. Benson. As their stunt before the reviewing stand the "old boys" sang "We are Yankee Doodle Boys."

The excellent conduct of the parade as a whole and the diversity of the costumes of the participants, constantly presenting fresh features to the spectators, were worthy of the eager interest with which the crowd received the parade. What feature of Old Home Week will longer be vividly remembered than this gay representation of the work of Rushford's School?

### OLD HOME WEEK AT RUSHFORD

Mary Sherwood

Among the pleasures of the year  
That woke my heart and gave it cheer  
Not one to me that was so dear  
As Old Home Week at Rushford.

Arriving on Centennial Day,  
I saw the streets in fine array,  
And everything so bright and gay  
For Old Home Week at Rushford.

But really it was best of all,  
The decorations of the hall  
And glorious ever to recall  
Of Old Home Week at Rushford.

And on the rostrum as they read  
Of ancestors among the dead,  
Almost I saw and heard their tread  
Along the streets of Rushford.

## Old Home Week at Rushford

Year after year they toiled along;  
And cheered their toil by hymn and song,  
To be recalled by future throng  
Centennial at Rushford.

Their histories were all well told;  
The phases of their lives unrolled,  
But little dross amidst the gold,  
In the pioneers of Rushford.

School Day opened by parade—  
The memory which will never fade,  
Of young and old, and how arrayed  
The pupils were of Rushford.

Float after float glided along—  
Yell after yell both shrill and strong,  
Awaking laughter from the throng  
That filled the streets of Rushford.

Friday was G. A. R. Day,  
The last is always best they say  
And in the mind will longer stay,  
And it was so at Rushford.

For the parade was—yes—just grand!  
For those therein had all the sand  
To act their parts with heart and hand,  
To enliven the streets of Rushford.

The veterans of course were there,  
And first of all they had their share  
Of honor, which they well might bear,  
The veterans of Rushford.

## Great Celebrations

Now it would take full many a day  
To all I saw or heard portray,  
And weave into this roundelay  
Of Old Home Week at Rushford.

So I will quickly speed along,  
Skip speeches, only mention song  
That I may feel not in the wrong,  
About the time at Rushford.

"Home, Sweet Home," and "Home Again"  
And "Annie Laurie's" sweet refrain,  
"Auld Lang Syne" like summer rain  
Refreshed our hearts at Rushford.

And oft were wafted by the strain  
Of orchestra or band again  
To youthful days all void of pain,  
Of youthful days at Rushford.

But I must not forget the door  
I opened oft and o'er and o'er  
I viewed the relics there in store  
The curios of Rushford.

In vain to give their meed of praise,  
How well preserved from ancient days,  
How plain to show in many ways  
The old time week of Rushford.

But now a word I long to say,  
The greatest pleasure of each day  
Was greeting friends from far away  
Who were gathered there at Rushford.

## Rushford Baseball Team

Although we ne'er again may meet  
To clasp the hand and kindly greet,  
The memory ever will be sweet  
Of Old Home Week at Rushford.

### RUSHFORD BASEBALL TEAM

Old Home Week

Abram P. Benjamin

Warner .....	Catcher
Charles VanDusen .....	Right Field
Barton Tarbell .....	Third Base
Abram P. Benjamin .....	Left Field
Matteson .....	Pitcher
Wm. G. Rice .....	Second Base
George VanDusen .....	Center Field
Greydon R. Davis .....	First Base
M. Raymond Atwell .....	Shortstop
William W. Bush .....	Manager

August 18.

Rushford 11.....Fillmore 2

August 19.

Rushford 2.....Franklinville 1

August 20.

Rushford 5.....Bliss 1

August 21.

Rushford 6.....Belfast 4



## Great Celebrations

### THE HOME COMING

The following poem, written by Mrs. Esther Saville Allen of Little Rock, Arkansas, was sent by Mrs. Ellen White Hubbell to Helen White Gilbert soon after Rushford's Centennial:

Standing at eve in her doorway  
With the yearnings of hope in her breast,  
A mother, while night shades are low'ring  
Looks forth to the North and the West.  
Then tenderly turns to the Eastward,  
Where beats the great pulse of the sea;  
And anon to the far sunny Southland,  
O'er mountains and river and lea.

Like emeralds the hills of her dwelling  
Her valleys are fair to behold;  
Her streams are the clearest of crystal,  
Her sunsets the rarest of gold.  
And the years with the gentlest of fingers  
Have touched her on cheek, and on brow,  
Though she wears on her clustering tresses,  
The snows of a century now.

Listen! As in her soft, gentle accents,  
To her children wherever they roam,  
She calls, to come back from the highway  
To the cool sheltered paths of the home;  
To revisit the dear scenes of childhood,  
Where Hope and Ambition first met,  
And which the bright glamor of youth-time  
Enfolds in its radiance yet.

## The Home Coming

They hear, and they come from the prairie,  
And the mountains exultant and free,

From the cities of trade's ebbless surges,  
Thy children come, mother, to thee!

Aye, they come from the dim Northern forests  
Exultant with anthem of pines;

And they come from the land of magnolias  
With the vine-wreathed temples and shrines.

And what though their locks have grown thinner  
Or with dust of the highways are gray?

And what though the tired feet falter  
From the roughness and length of the way?

Since they come bearing with them their life work,  
With its crown of endeavor complete,

And they lay it in grateful remembrance  
Dear mother, at shrine of thy feet.

But what of the graves of thy children  
Who hear not the summons to come,

Once more to the rest and the shelter  
And the tender endearments of home;

They who fell in the van of the battle,  
Or pined in the deadly stockade,

But true to their flag and their country  
Met death and were never afraid?

Now back to the worn dusty highway,  
To the sparkle and lees of life's wine;

Aye, back to the toil and endeavor  
From the paths of the dear "Auld lang syne."

But mother, dear mother, your blessing  
Ere we rev'rently turn to depart,

With the fires of faith newly kindled,  
And a new song of hope in the heart.

## XV

### CHEESE

#### EARLY CHEESE MAKING

H. J. W. G.

THE first cheese manufactured in Rushford was made by William Weaver and his sons, Joseph and Benjamin, about 1830, on a farm in Podonque now owned by Mrs. L. J. Thomas. This farm is on lot sixteen. William Weaver was a grandfather of Edwin, Isaac and Lorenzo Weaver.

The hoops used in cheese making, were made of straight pine staves hooped with iron. The size of hoop used was according to the amount of milk. The cheeses were turned each day and greased with butter made by churning the cream that rose on the whey. The season's make was kept till fall when it was put into casks and hauled to Rochester. When the Genesee Valley Canal was opened, it was hauled to Cuylerville. The selling price was from four to six cents a pound. Charles Benjamin thought he was making money when he hauled cheese to Rochester and sold it for four and one-half cents a pound.

Each farmer had his own cheese house, some of which are still standing. Women would rise at five, make their cheese and be at church with their children when the Sunday morning service commenced.

The following appeared in the *Republican Era* of September 1, 1847:

Cheese—As handsome a lot of cheese as we have ever seen was delivered at Witherspoon's grocery on Saturday, from the dairy of Joseph Weaver, Rushford, Allegany

## Pineapple Cheese

County. These Allegany dairies are among the finest that appear in market.—*Rochester Democrat*.

### PINEAPPLE CHEESE

**A**BOUT 1810 Lewis M. Norton of Goshen, Litchfield County, Connecticut, invented and patented the process of making Pineapple Cheese.

His son Robert worked with him in his factory at Goshen and became expert. In 1849 he visited Rushford and determined to introduce into that town the business in which his father had succeeded so well in New England. In 1851 he commenced the manufacture of Pineapple Cheese in a building that once stood back of the Academy but now is the north wing of the Rushford cheese factory. Teams were sent around each day to collect the curd purchased of the farmers. It was tied up in cloths, thrown onto a wagon prepared for the purpose and taken to the factory where it was pressed into iron molds, then put into netted bags made by women in the town, at their homes, for twelve cents each. The cheeses were then hung up to cure. They were very rich, one-third cream having been added to the natural richness of the milk. In form they were like pineapples.

During the Civil War pineapple cheese sold for forty cents a pound. The usual price was twelve or fourteen cents or double that of ordinary cheese. They were placed four in a square box and shipped to New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore or Chicago.

In 1883 the business was transferred from Rushford to Attica where it was conducted by E. P. Norton, a nephew

NOTE.—Arranged from an article written by John M. Minard for the *Rushford Spectator*.

## Cheese

of Robert Norton, the pioneer pineapple cheese manufacturer in New York State. When Robert Norton was married to Julia Horsford of Moscow, New York, his father cut a pineapple cheese which was twenty-six years old, just the age of the groom. C. J. Elmer was a partner of Robert Norton in the pineapple cheese business for twenty-five years.

### THE RUSHFORD CHEESE FACTORY

H. J. W. G.

**I**N September, 1863, Robert Morrow, Charles Benjamin and H. K. Stebbins commenced the erection of a cheese factory in Rushford village. The following winter Mr. Morrow and Mr. Benjamin visited Herkimer County to learn the best methods of manufacturing cheese. The factory was opened in July, 1864, with Martin Barnes of Herkimer as head cheese maker. In the following November it was sold to Charles J. Elmer who still owns it. In 1866 and 1867 Andrew Kimball managed the factory.

For the first two or three years milk was made up from 2,200 cows, some of the milk being hauled seven or eight miles. The factory then ran day and night, making in the height of the season two tons of cheese a day. It was not long before Mr. Elmer built other factories in the town. For a number of years Webb & Turner of New York took his entire output, shipping a large part of it to London and Liverpool. The quality of his cheese was such that it was eagerly sought by buyers. In the earlier years the entire product of his factories was hauled to Cuba or Castle.

Mr. Elmer spent some time in England acquainting himself with the demands of the English market.



## Cheese Box Factories

There have been great fluctuations in the price of cheese, the highest price paid being twenty-two cents a pound. The present price, June, 1909, is thirteen cents.

John G. James was foreman of the factory twenty years, Lincoln Olthof two years, and Joseph McMurray is serving his twenty-first year in that capacity.

This factory was one of the first in Western New York and the first in Allegany County.

In 1866 A. J. and H. B. Ackerly built a cheese factory on the farm of Ackerly Company, two miles from Rushford village, on the Cuba road. D. B. Sill and Warren Damon were the salesmen.

## CHEESE BOX FACTORIES

H. J. W. G.

**I**N East Rushford, in the fifties, there was a sawmill where the McElheney sawmill now stands. Thirty rods west of the mill, Randolph Heald had a shop where he made cheese hoops and casks. About 1856 he made the first cheese boxes in Allegany County. The early boxes were of various sizes. The largest ones would hold sixty-pound cheese. He usually employed two men, one of whom was a cooper who made fifty-pound butter firkins. The shop was washed away in the flood of 1864. He then discontinued the business.

For thirteen years there was no box factory in Rushford.

In 1877 William Henry & Son rented the basement of Amba H. Alderman's sawmill on the Caneadea road, at the outskirts of Rushford village, where they made cheese boxes for five years.

## Cheese

In 1882 the Woods Brothers, C. E. and J. M. Woods, rented the same basement and carried on the business until 1885, when C. E. Woods sold his interest to G. C. Woods. In 1892 J. M. Woods sold his share to W. H. Woods. The firm of Woods Brothers continued until January 4, 1897, when A. M. Tarbell bought one-half interest of G. C. Woods. The firm Woods & Tarbell continued until January 15, 1907, when A. M. Tarbell bought one-half interest of W. H. Woods. A. M. Tarbell employs (1908) ten men and has from his factory an average output of 65,000 boxes and from 20,000 to 30,000 set of heading. He delivers boxes to the following places: Angelica, West Almond, Fillmore, Belfast, Houghton, Hume, Belmont, Oramel and Rushford.

The box factory is of great value to Rushford.

## XVI

### FIRES

H. J. W. G.

**I**N 1851 or 1852 the first Globe Hotel, which stood on Commercial Street at the head of Main Street, was burned. B. T. Roberts was then pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Being a manager of men, he formed a double line extending north from the hotel. Men passing pails of water were in one line, and women passing back the empty pails were in the other. South of the hotel a similar line extended to Samuel White's. They were all well at work, when John Holmes rushed up and down between the lines, pushing people right and left and shouting "Form a line." He also made himself useful by carefully carrying the feather beds down stairs and throwing the mirrors out of the windows.

March, 1907, on a Friday morning at eight o'clock, the second Globe Hotel, a large, square, three-story building, painted white, was burned on the same site. At this time it was owned by Wallace McFarlan, who occupied it as a dwelling house. It was built by J. A. Colby, who in 1856 was still the proprietor. Upon the opening of the hotel a grand ball was given. One hundred and twenty tickets were sold at "twenty shillings" each. In 1859, W. C. Gray kept the house. Other landlords were Smith & Boyd, James Relya, Arlington Chadwick, Calvin Scott, George Bresler, E. C. Hardy, H. C. Chase, James Cook, Adelbert ("Doc") Baker, James Dooley and Benjamin Baldwin, Jr.

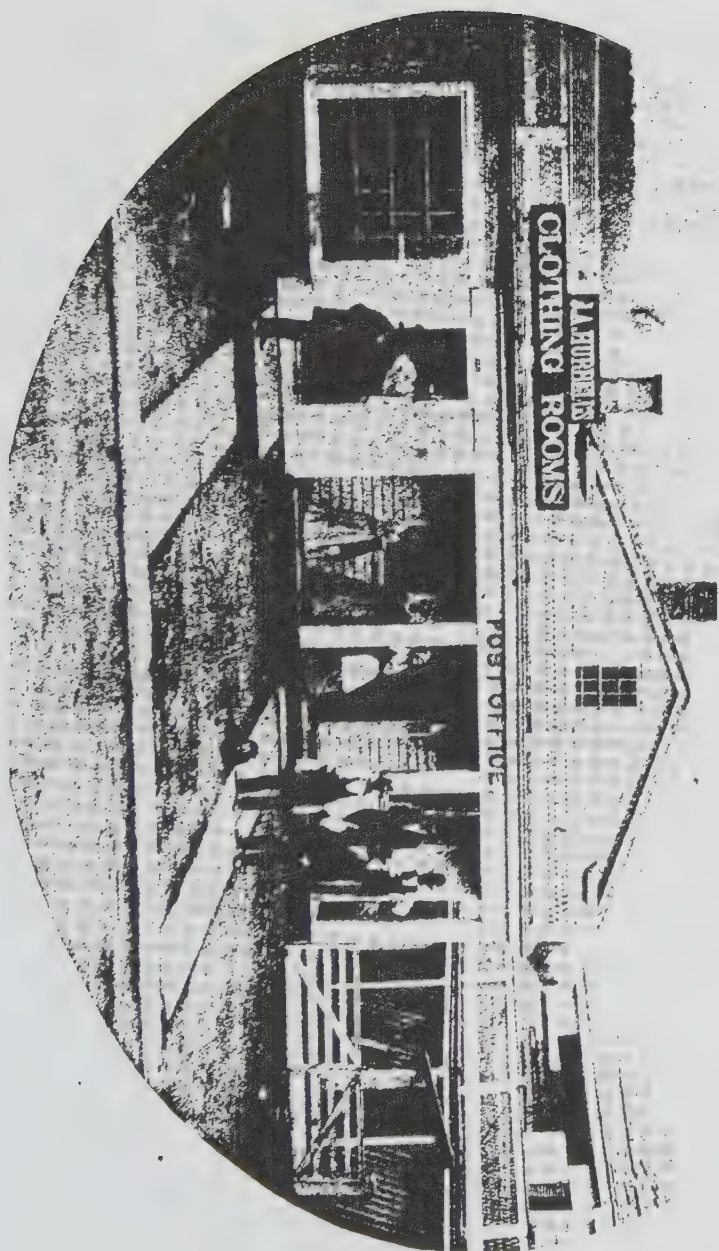
In the spring of 1864, the bakery of Tousley & Cham-

## Fires

berlain, manufacturers of crackers and stick candy, and the old Methodist Church, which had been moved to make room for the present Methodist Church, were burned in the night. These buildings were on the south side of Main Street, below the Academy.

In 1875, where the store of J. G. James & Son now stands, was the dry goods store of William E. Kyes, the second floor of which was occupied by "Billy" Aiken, a tailor. This building, once the Union store, was moved there in 1864 by Wolcott Griffin, from the corner now owned by S. E. Taylor & Son. Just east of this store was the Holden grocery, west was the harness shop of Harry Howe and the postoffice, in the rear of which was the law office of C. W. Woodworth. The next building was used by Mrs. Woodworth as a millinery store. West of this was a dwelling house owned by John Holmes. All of these buildings were burned July 9, 1875.

December 20, 1883, on the south side of Main Street between the Academy and C. W. Woodworth's, now R. B. Laning's, occurred the most disastrous fire that ever visited Rushford. A defective stovepipe in the dental office of Dr. Peters was supposed to be the cause of the fire. The buildings burned were a billiard saloon owned by Alfred Green; the blacksmith shop of Chauncey McDonald; a large building owned by Ida M. Leavens, on the first floor of which was the hardware store of W. W. Merrill, and on the second floor the printing office of Frank B. Smith, editor of *The Spectator*; a building owned by Mrs. M. Antoinette Stacy and Nathaniel Jewell, the lower part of which was occupied by Pratt & Colburn, dry goods, and F. E. white, groceries and clothing, and the upper floor, above the dry goods store, by Erna Wier and Josie Butts, dress-makers; and a fine wooden structure owned by C. W. Wood





### Clothing Rooms and Post Office, 1859

John A. Hubbell, the tailor, stands in his doorway; on the porch, at the left is Amelia Cooley, a tailoress; next is Mary Green, the postmistress; standing at the right of the pillar is Eleanor Blanchard, a tailoress; and on the walk, with a linen coat on and his dog Curly near, is "Colonel" Hardy, the postmaster. The building with the sign Post Office was once the home of Dr. Wm. Smith; in after years it was used by Charles W. Woodworth as a Post Office. In the house with the lattice work, Smith Fuller once made hats and caps; later, the front part was used by Mrs. Woodworth as a millinery store.

## Fires

worth, in which were a law office, postoffice, town hall and the millinery store of Mrs. C. W. Woodworth. About \$30,000 worth of property was destroyed at this time.

Early one Sunday morning in June, 1904, west of the Academy, the meat market owned by F. A. Jagers and occupied by Clarence Smith; the store of Elmer A. Gere, on the second floor of which were the living rooms of Clarence Smith; and the harness shop of Myron Claus were quickly burned. A part of this ground had been burned over three times. "Allie Smith out on the Academy lawn calling for some one to bring him some pants seems rather funny now, but it didn't about one o'clock Sunday morning."

April 15, 1885, at 2:30 in the morning, on the north side of lower Main Street, a fire was discovered on the second floor of the furniture and undertaking rooms of S. Root. It had made such headway that it was impossible to stop it. All the buildings from the residence of A. Howser (now W. H. Thomas's) to the corner of Main and Buffalo Streets were burned. The buildings destroyed were the blacksmith shop of A. Howser; a small building occupied by A. Peters, dentist; the Mason Block in which were an empty store, the barber shops of A. Ray and A. Edson and, on the second floor, the living rooms of A. Ray; the cabinet shop of S. Root; and the Lathrop Block in which were the harness shop of Myron Claus and, on the second floor, the shoe shop of Robert Murray. About \$10,000 worth of property was destroyed.

January 23, 1886, at 10:30 p. m., a fire broke out in the hardware store of C. D. Shaw, on the corner of West Main and Lower Streets. It was discovered by Myron Claus, who, with his family, was returning home from DeWitt McDonald's where they had been spending the evening. Mr. Shaw and his family, who occupied the second floor as liv-

## Fires

ing rooms, had barely time to dress and escape. The building was owned by O. T. Higgins. Mr. Shaw, who came from Wellsburg, New York, had been in business in Rushford less than a year. The following Monday afternoon there met at the residence of A. M. Taylor seventy women, bringing goods to be made up, and garments and bedding for the afflicted family.

The same evening a meeting was called for the purpose of obtaining fire protection. C. W. Woodworth was chosen president, and W. H. Benson secretary. Three hundred dollars was subscribed at the meeting. Later two fire engines, the C. J. Elmer and the Rushford, were purchased.

In 1887 the first frame barn in town, built by Eneas Gary, was struck by lightning and burned.

## XVII

### ASHERIES

H. J. W. G.

A large portion of the land of the early settlers had to be cleared for agricultural purposes; and as there was no market for lumber, the log heaps were burned and the ashes carefully saved and sold. It was the ashes that paid the taxes.

B. T. Hapgood built one of the first asheries in Rushford; indeed they were likely to be owned by merchants who would send from their stores men with wagons, each containing a tin trunk filled with goods, to be exchanged for the ashes of the farmers. O. T. Higgins bought ten acres of the Charles Hapgood farm to cut off the timber and burn it for the ashes.

The following is the location of asheries which at some time were in Rushford: One, on the Emerson Kendall farm; two, on the Creek road, one (owned by O. T. Higgins), near the site of the cider mill at the outskirts of the village, the other near the creek, on land now owned by J. G. Benjamin; one, near West Main Street bridge, back of the store of Nelson McCall, later both store and ashery were owned by O. T. Higgins; one, on Lower Street below the present Baptist parsonage, owned by Chase & Gilman, later owned by David Chase\* who lived on the knoll back of F. E. White's, an old well is all that remains of this ashery; one, in the hollow north of the barns now owned by Mrs. Alice Gordon Hooker, it belonged to John Gordon; two, on the road from Upper Street to Gordonville, north

\*Father of Horace Chase.

## Asheries

of the creek, on land now owned by W. K. Baldwin, they belonged to Orville Boardman; one, on the Caneadea road, west of the bridge, on land now owned by Mrs. John Walker, it belonged to Judge McCall; one, on the farm now owned by W. Armstrong, it was below the house and on the same side of the road; and one on the farm now owned by Stephen Wilmot.

An ashery was a building where ashes were converted into black salts or potash or pearlash. Along the sides of the building were doors; in the interior on each side, was a row of funnel bins or leeches into which the man on the outside with his load, shoveled his ashes. After water was poured into the leeches, lye ran out into inclined troughs. Through the center of the ashery was a row of kettles where the lye was boiled down into black salts. After cooling the salts were of the consistency of heavy maple wax.

To make potash, the black salts were put into another kettle and heated until salts and kettle were red hot, when the red hot mass was dipped with a red hot dipper into another kettle where it stood until cold; then it was called potash. It was very hard, gray on the outside but of a beautiful peach-blow color on the inside. The potash was broken up, barreled and shipped, bringing about one hundred and forty dollars a ton. Mr. Boardman had a pearl oven. Pearlash, white and fine, was made from black salts by burning, dissolving in water, boiling and burning again.

Making potash is to Rushford one of the lost arts the nearest approach is the occasional making of soft soap. This is seldom used figuratively by the real Rushford type. There were in Rushford two men by the same name, one worked in an ashery, hence, to distinguish him, he was called "Potash Bill." Chauncey Williams is probably the only man in town who has worked in an ashery.



## XVIII

### THE STORM OF 1838

Carrie Belknap

**I**N the summer of 1838 a terrible storm visited the town of Rushford. Rain fell in torrents, trees were uprooted, and one house on Rush Creek occupied by John Bosworth, whose wife, Maria Belknap, was the daughter of one of the earliest settlers, was completely demolished.

Mr. Bosworth had gone to the village blacksmith shop, leaving his wife and two children alone. He little thought, as he bade them good-by, that his home was so soon to be wrecked. Upon reaching town he noticed a dark cloud rapidly coming up, but did think it near enough to damage his home, until his brother-in-law, A. Belknap, appeared on his other horse, telling him to hurry home, that his house was blown to pieces. As fast as possible he did so, and sure enough the little home was a complete wreck and one child, a little girl about two years old, dead, buried under the ruins of the great fireplace chimney. A neighbor, by the name of Waterbury, lifted unaided the mantelpiece that partly covered her. The next day he could not move it an inch. Mrs. Bosworth with the other child, a baby of six months, was at the door, and so escaped death, but she received injuries that hastened her death a few years later. The baby, Nancy, escaped and is still living, hale and hearty, the wife of Norris Cleveland of Farmersville Center.

The wind did some strange things; a large grindstone was blown a long distance, and the flour barrel, kept upstairs, was blown to pieces, the staves being found many miles away. The effects of this storm were seen many years after, where the wind mowed the trees, making a path through the heavy timber.

## XIX

### THE FLOOD OF 1864

#### A CHAPTER OF THE FLOOD OF AUGUST 16 AND 17, 1864

(Related to Helen White Gilbert by Dr. O. T. Stacy.)

**I**T commenced to rain at six o'clock in the afternoon and continued to rain in torrents through the night. About eleven o'clock William E. Kyes and Dr. Stacy were on their way home from the drug store which they had recently purchased. As they crossed the foot-bridge on Lower Street they observed that the water in the creek reached the top of the banks. Dr. Stacy lived in the house now owned by Mrs. W. H. Leavens. It then stood on the east side of Lower Street just south of the house belonging to the Masons. The Mason house was then owned by Mrs. Helen Laning; north of it was the Methodist parsonage occupied by the Rev. John McEuen. The next house but one beyond the parsonage was the home of Mrs. B. M. Gilley, a widow, sister of Columbus Ely.

Dr. and Mrs. Stacy were awakened in the night by a loud noise; going to the door they saw a wall of water three feet high moving toward their house. The shade trees and the fence were as straws in its path. The water commenced coming in at the windows, so they took up their carpets and fled to the chambers. The water kept rising until it was five feet high. The lower part of the town was a

## The Flood of 1864

lake covered with flood wood. All that night the logs and trees were beating against the house. A loud roaring was heard, first on the north, later on the south side of the house. They saw O. T. Higgins' front door with a window above and each side coming toward them. There was a strange light that night, and although there was a down-pour of rain they could plainly see the people standing on the corner now owned by Howard Wood. The Rev. John McEuen was out on his porch swinging his lantern and calling for help. Dr. Stacy shouted to him, "You're not in danger. Don't you see that barricade in front of your house?" The logs had piled up against the large shade trees before the personage and Mrs. Laning's house, affording them protection and dividing the current, one current going north, the other south of their houses.

Mrs. Gilley was in her chamber praying, when J. C. Nobles with staff in hand waded toward her house. He rescued her by carrying her through the water on his back. In a short time he returned to rescue some of her possessions, but the house was gone. Since Dr. and Mrs. Stacy were thought to be in danger, Mr. Avery Washburn started for the Gordonville mill to get a cable, but finding the factory warehouse threatened, he stopped to help throw out the large quantity of wool there stored. In the meantime Mr. Nobles and DeWitt McDonald had waded to the house, and Mr. Nobles and the doctor had carried Mrs. Stacy to a safe place.

The morning revealed strange things. The upright part of Dr. Stacy's house was nearly undermined, and the clapboards were torn off for four or five feet from the ground; the well and the cistern were gone; near the wing was a deep hole and into this the doctor's office had tipped; back of the house lay a large tree three feet in diameter;

## The Flood of 1864

in front of the house was another tree as large as one could girdle with his arms; in the back yard, covered by a foot of earth, was the parlor carpet of Mrs. Higgins. That portion of the town would not have been recognized. It was a scene of desolation.

The next day, going to visit a patient in Freedom the doctor found the road obliterated and the bridges gone. If Titans had pulled up all the trees in Delzell Hill's sugar bush and scattered them it could not have been worse. He met Jacob VanDusen and his wife coming from Sandusky. Mr. VanDusen said, "You can't get through; I have broken my reach," but he went on, visited his patient and returned home in the night in safety, thanks to his trusty and intelligent horse.

Israel Thompson's barn containing a dairy of fifteen cows stanchioned was carried down the stream; although the stanchions went to pieces, only one cow perished.

A woman living in East Rushford, whose husband was connected with the sash and blind factory, wished to move to a larger place, so when their house was carried off by the flood, she remarked that she thought it was a Godsend. When Samuel Bellows of East Rushford saw that his house was moving, he climbed into a tree in an orchard near by. The tree commenced to move, so he swung himself into another tree where he remained till morning. He afterwards remarked that when that tree commenced to move he thought it was a "God-sender."

Several floods have visited Rushford, but no other has caused so great devastation as that of '64.

## XX

### RAILROADS

#### OUR LOST T. V. & C. R. R.

H. J. W. G.

THE Tonawanda Valley and Cuba Railroad was completed in September, 1882. Its gauge was narrow and its life was short, but it made Rushford boom. In 1883 were built the residences of Nathaniel Jewell (now owned by Martin Lyon), William O. Kingsbury and Van Rensselaer Jenks,\* and in 1884, the Brick Block, the stores of A. M. Taylor and W. W. Merrill, the mill and tenant houses of J. B. Gordon and Son, the Hardy House, and the residences of E. C. Gilbert, H. A. Holden, C. C. Colburn, H. C. Dresser and Charles Gordon. Passengers could leave Rushford in the morning for Attica, take a train for either Buffalo or Rochester, and after spending a day in the city, reach home by ten o'clock at night. Another train left Rushford in the morning for Cuba where it connected with trains either way on the Erie, and returned after their arrival.

The town raised \$18,000 for bonds, \$1,200 for right of way where it had to be bought, and built the round house. Nearly all the bonds owned by Rushford men were sold in December, 1885, at twenty-four and one-half cents on a dollar. Two strikes for back pay occurred in 1885, one in January and one in November. October 16, 1886, trains were discontinued south of Sandusky.

The only fatal accident in Rushford due to the T. V

\*The property of the late V. R. Jenks is now owned by Lorenzo D. Sweatland.



## Railroads

& C. R. R. was the death of Mr. Kelley, which was caused by the trains running into a washout north of Hardy's. Fred G. Gordon's hand was injured at this time.

The marriages of C. J. Hardaway and Mrs. Delia Hyde Robbins, William Lewis and Mary Claus, George Briggs and Ora Gates, took place in consequence of the coming of the T. V. The family of James Brady, a bridge carpenter, continued to reside in town.

When the track was laid there was great rejoicing, but the grade is all that now remains of the Tonawanda Valley and Cuba Railroad.

### THE RAILROAD

ONCE there was a little town,  
Round here about,  
That for a railroad's coming  
Has been watching out.

They dreamed of it by night  
And talked of it by day  
Until it seemed the outside world  
Was not so far away.

And oftentimes in fancy .  
With what ecstatic thrills,  
They heard the engine's whistle  
Re-echoing o'er their hills.

NOTE.—These lines were written by Mrs. Lucretia Elmer Morse, and were read by her before the Cynthia Club in 1903. The railroad referred to is the Buffalo & Susquehanna.

## The Railroad

And when they saw the surveyors,  
At least a half a score,  
Meander forth each morning  
To traipse the landscape o'er,

And heard the talk and parley  
About a proper grade,  
It really seemed that they could see  
The very roadbed made.

They heard of tunnels through the hill,  
The wondrous bridge the gorge had spanned,  
And of the countless millions  
The projectors could command.

And with the world's progressive thousands  
They felt that they were kin,  
That after years of isolation  
They, at last, were in the swim.

O the peak of exultation  
That they climbed up upon,  
And then the direful tumble  
To the valley of despond,

For to cloud this brilliant noonday,  
A rumor came about,  
That this great commercial highway  
Had gone another route.

And of that fond delusion  
There remains to be seen  
But a few small stakes and footprints  
To tell what might have been.

## The Railroad

And now they question whether  
The days of anxious doubt,  
And all the fuss and feather,  
Has paid for watching out.

## XXI

### MISCELLANEOUS

H. J. W. G.

#### BLAZED TREES

**I**F one wished to make a road through the woods between two settlements, one of which was south from the other, with an ax he would chip the bark off a tree, making one mark on the north and one on the south side, then he would look ahead to a tree easily seen, in the direction he wished to go, and mark this tree in a similar manner. The process was repeated until he reached the desired place.

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Mrs. Nancy Woods said an Indian would sometimes come to their house and with blanket on, would stand before the window with outstretched arms, darkening the room, until they went to the door and let him in.

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When Oliver Benjamin was a boy, he would go after the cows, holding before and behind him a lighted chip to keep the wolves away.

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Mr. H. B. Ackerly said that when he was a boy, people had to pay the postage on a letter before they could take it from the office, that sometimes his father, William Ackerly, waited weeks before he would have the sixpence to get the letter.

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Farmers that had pine lands cleared them with difficulty as green pine is very hard to burn.

## Miscellaneous

The wooden flutter wheel was used in the first saw-mills; it was placed on the outside of the mill; the water passing through the flume and striking the buckets on the wheel, caused it to revolve.

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Before railroads were built, cattle were driven to New Jersey to market.

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### Reminder of General Training, State of New York.

To Mr. Oscar T. Board, Greeting:

You having been elected a Corporal of a Company under the command of H. N. Hammond in the 230th Regiment, 52nd Brigade, and 25th Division of Infantry of the Militia of the State of New York:—I do therefore, in pursuance of the statute in such case made and provided, Grant you this warrant. You are to obey the orders which you shall from time to time receive from your superior officers, and to discharge the duty of Corporal in said company, with fidelity, according to the laws and regulations established for the government and discipline of the Militia of this State.

Given under my hand, at Rushford this 28th day of August, A. D. 1839.

J. B. Gordon, Colonel.

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Things made at East Rushford in the forties: Flour, lumber, shingles, sash, blinds, yokes, wagons, carriages, sleighs, buckets, pails, cane-seat chairs, flag-bottom chairs, rocking-chairs, wash-stands, light stands, parlor tables, dining tables, bureaus, bedsteads, lounges, bookcases, melodeons, coffins, linseed oil, oil meal, boots, shoes, leather, iron castings and mill irons. One could have his rifle re-



## Miscellaneous

paired, his horses and oxen shod, and while waiting could buy his dinner at the East Rushford Cottage—H. M. Sherwin, proprietor.

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## INVENTIONS

Myron Claus—Hip-strap fastener for a harness.

DeWitt McDonald—Hay fork and wagon jack

Adoniram Colburn—Straw cutter.

Frank L. Taylor—Machine for winding and measuring lace and ribbon.

Dr. W. Bush—An automatic arrangement for opening the draft of a stove at a certain hour.

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Alfred Wier, a cabinet maker, was one of the finest mechanics Rushford ever had.

E. P. Lyon made in all three thousand dollars worth of axe helves. They were taken by the load to other towns and exchanged for money or goods.

The biggest business transaction that ever took place in the town of Rushford was the transfer of timber land in five different states to the value of \$40,000 from O. T. Higgins to A. J. and H. B. Ackerly. C. W. Woodworth drew up the papers.

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The words in the second column show the early pronunciation of the words in the first column.

Tarbell	Tar'-ble
Damon	Dem'-on
Metcalf	Med'-kiff
Heald	Hale
Gillette	Gil'-lett
Morse	Moss

## Miscellaneous

Kendall	Kin'-dle
Caneadea	Can-a-dear' or Can-dear
Searl	Cearls
Youngs	Young

---

Different ways of spelling some proper names :

Bennet	Bennett
Gillman	Gilman
Banister	Bannister
Garey	Gary, Geary, Gearey
Howser	Hauser
Doland	Dolan
Osborne	Osborn
M'Euen	McEwen
Washburne	Washburn
Searl	Searle

When Martin Lyon was a small boy, he attended school in a building just east of the Methodist Chapel. At one time his conduct was not all it might have been, so for punishment he was put into the wood box. He was consoled, however, when "Lute" Gordon handed him remnants of tallow candles to eat, for he liked candles better than he did candy. The school house was sometimes used evenings for singing school. Wilson Gordon says that Huldah Kinney was a teacher in this school house, later Solon Nichols and wife taught; he did the "licking" and she did the teaching. In 1840 the building was torn down.

---

Angelica is the only town of Allegany County in which slaves have been held; but in Rushford there have

## Miscellaneous

been traces of witchcraft. Among the settlers of the first twenty years was a woman who thought because her butter did not come that her cream was bewitched; so she put a red-hot horse shoe into it. A spot shaped like a horse-shoe appeared on the body of another woman in the neighborhood.

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During the winter of 1840-41, Mr. Avery Washburn taught the school in the little red school house under the hill in the east district. Mr. Washburn kept on the stove an iron basin of water to moisten the air in the room. A number of the pupils carried their dinner to school, and during the noon hour while Mr. Washburn was away of the remnants of the various dinners, a pudding was concocted in the basin on the stove. When the teacher returned the pudding was piping hot, and the pupils were in their seats intent upon their lessons. Mr. Washburn said, "The one who made that pudding will please remove it from the stove." No one started, though there were knowing glances cast about the room. The command was repeated, then a tall girl with blushing face came forward, took the basin to the door, emptied the pudding and replaced the basin. The girl's name was Emeline Lyon. Nothing more was said and no more puddings were made that winter.

---

For a number of years there was something of a sectional spirit in the village; the two parts of which were spoken of as Upper Street and Lower Street, between which it was not closely built up. This spirit extended to the children, and was especially manifest among the boys during the snowballing season. One lady relates that while attending a party when a child, a discussion

## Miscellaneous

arose as to the comparative merits of Upper and Lower Streets and she became so offended that she went home without her supper. She was an "Upper Streeter." The building of the Academy and later the consolidation of the district schools, did away with what was never very serious.

For a period Lower Street boasted of a temperance hotel. Upper Street never made such a boast. Once when one who had imbibed freely was not able to stand up under her load, a woman on Upper Street called out to the landlord, "George, your sign's fell down."

In the forties there was given to the public a list of questions and answers which caused some excitement. The following are a few of the questions:

"Who grinds the face of the poor?"

"Who is the biggest liar in town?"

"Who has to stand on his head to have his clothes brushed?" (The tailor had made Philetus Gratton's clothes so that the nap ran the wrong way.)

"Who lives in Hell upon earth?"

The man who was called the biggest liar in town was angry, so he went to the man said to live in "Hell upon earth" and told him there ought to be something done about it; then, to stir him up, he said, "See what they said about you!" "What's the use of doing anything," was the moderate answer, "when every word of it is God's truth?"

---

Questions were asked Wilson L. Gordon with regard to the time when he was young. Mr. Gordon was born in Rushford in 1828. The following are his answers:

"The best educated woman in town was Aurora Thompson." (Mrs. Green of New York.)

## Miscellaneous

"The best writer on general subjects was Lucretia Elmer." (Mrs. Asa G. Morse.)

"The prettiest girl ever raised in Rushford was Cornelia Gilman." (Mrs. Green of Olean.)

"The most thorough church worker was Mrs. James McCall."

"The best male singer was Hollister Chapin."

"The best female singer was Marshie Remington. In 1856 she married W. L. Gordon, that is myself."

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One of the Griffins who came to Rushford was a little peculiar, unlike the other members of the family, and some one, knowing his name was Griffin, asked "Uncle Joel" if he were his brother. "Yes," said he, but quickly added, "He's Oramel's brother too." This reply became one of the proverbs of the town.

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Kirke White was constable and collector in Rushford March 4, 1861-1874, with the exception of two years. About the time of his first election, the law taxing dogs was so changed that if the owner refused to pay his tax then the dog must be killed. The law was not taken seriously at first, but was treated as a joke. "Billie," who kept a billiard saloon in the Searl building on Upper Street, refused to pay his dog tax. Oliver Colburn and Wesley Gordon joined with him to hide the dog and torment Kirke, who was kept going here and there to find the dog. Finally Martin Lyon and Martin Damon thought the joke had been carried far enough, so they sat down and wrote to Kirke, telling him that the dog was in Gordon's gristmill. The next morning Kirke reached the mill before Wesley and secured the dog. Just then Wesley appeared and he and Kirke had a tussel over the dog, during which



## Miscellaneous

Kirke said to him, "Don't you know you're resisting an officer of the law?" Finally Martin Lyon said, "Don't go too far, 'Wes,' you mustn't resist an officer of the law." Wesley then paid the tax and the collector departed in peace.

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There were many sad partings when the boys went off to the war. All who went were not so comforting as Dwight Scott. When he was going out to the road to ride with "the boys" to Cuba, his mother followed weeping. "Don't cry, mother," said Dwight, "I can kill as many of them as they can of me." Dwight Scott is living yet.

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At the time of the Greeley campaign quite a number of prominent Rushford men joined the Liberal Republican party. A speaker was advertised and a large number gathered at the Academy Hall to hear him. The Democrats especially enjoyed the speech. On the platform behind the speaker were Isaiah Lathrop, O. T. Higgins, Washington White, James Gordon and others. In the audience was Dr. Timothy Higgins, father of O. T. As the speaker held up to ridicule the shortcomings of the Republican party, Dr. Higgins, indignant, got up and went out, saying, "He'd heard them lies as long as he should." The speaker remarked, "The medicine is working."

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Gardner George, who was neighbor of Dr. O. T. Stacy, went to Dr. Stacy's house to borrow a wheelbarrow. On the side of the wheelbarrow were these words, "Stolen from O. T. Stacy." "It's too bad, Mr. George," said Mrs. Stacy, "for you to take that wheelbarrow with those words on it." "Never mind," said Mr. George, "I'll take a card and write the word *by* on it and tack it over *from*."

## Miscellaneous

Mrs. Aldula Cole was a daughter of Leonard Farwell, who was an early settler on the Centerville road. When testifying at a revival meeting she said, "I'm glad salvation's free. You all know if it cost a cent I couldn't have it." Once Mrs. Cole went to E. C. Gilbert, justice of the peace, to tell him how she had received no pay for the washing and mending she had done for Morris Sexton and to ask him for a summons. "I worked for him as I would for my own son, when I wasn't any more fit to work, Eddy Gilbert, than you are to preach."

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Owen Rush, an Irishman who worked about Rushford in the sixties, in speaking of a man in the western part of the town, said, "He won't believe after he's convinced."

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When Louis B. Lane and William H. Benson were youngsters they had some disagreement which ended in a hand-to-hand combat. William, in whose veins ran blood of Erin's Isle, won. The next morning when Louis saw his antagonist coming down the street, he called out, "Good morning, 'William the Conqueror.'"

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Podunk was the name of a tribe of Indians in Connecticut. The word means "a place of burning." When the name was given to the east part of the town, Riley Woods, because of the squatters in the eastern portion, said it ought to be called "Poordunk." Probably the debating club referred to in the Podonque Reminiscences simply changed the spelling. "There is a place over in Allegany County that the Rushford *Spectator* calls Podonque. We wonder if that isn't the old time, plain, every day leek center of forty years ago, known in 'them days' as Podunk?"—Danville *Breeze*.

## Miscellaneous

A cold winter remembered by Chester Perry and E. H. Frary was that of 1855-6. It commenced snowing December 24th and did not thaw until April 2nd. The snow where undisturbed was five feet deep. Double teams could not be driven even on main roads. The mail carried from Rushford to Pike by way of Centerville was entirely suspended for a week or more at a time. One morning the mercury was solid in the glass.

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Near one of the burial grounds in Rushford is a swamp. Mary Pratt, one of the descendants of Calvin Leavens, said, "I don't want to be buried there; I couldn't stand it to hear the frogs croak; I should get up and throw a tombstone at them."

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"How nearly alike the Alderman twins look," said Mrs. Sophia Gilbert; "they look so nearly alike that when I visited the school the teacher pronounced a word to one of them and she missed it, then she pronounced it to the other and she missed it."

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In Romain Benjamin, Rushford has an orator whose characteristics are solemnity, distinct enunciation, brevity and humor. He is a grandson of Levi Benjamin who at one time was a deacon in the Baptist Church. When speaking Farmers' Day of Old Home Week, he referred to the time when children committed to memory passages of Scripture for their Sunday School lesson. His grandfather, pointing, would say to him, "Young man, have you learned them seven verses?" "No, sir" "Then go and stand in the chimney corner till you get 'em."

There was once a gallery in the Baptist Church where this "young man" liked to sit with the boys. When he did

## Miscellaneous

not appear in the pew, his grandfather would rise and, looking up into the gallery, would say, "Young man, come down and set with your grandmother and grandfather." "These are the reasons," declared the speaker, "that I never became a Baptist."

At the exercises held in the Academy Hall, February 12, 1909, to commemorate Lincoln's birthday, our orator was the last of the four speakers who had seen Lincoln. His address was something like this: "I noticed that some of the speakers had memoranda; before I left home, I said to my wife, 'Hadn't I better write something?' 'No,' she said, 'in your delicate condition you couldn't read it, if you did.'" Referring to Lincoln, he said, "When I looked upon that noble form, I made up my mind if I should ever be called to the presidency, I should follow in his footsteps. I've been waiting and listening and I ain't heard no call yet." Both times he brought down the house.

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"Captain Harry Calkins with his company of kids be came inspired by the building of the B. & S. and built a railroad from the bridge on Lower Street to the shanty which is their club house. The rails are of wood, the track is well ballasted, and the car with its wooden wheels carries two adults or four children. It is down grade to the shanty and the lads push the car back. It is named the Bridge, Shanty and Indian Creek R. R. The round trip fare is one cent and the road is already doing quite a business. The officials are Grover Phelps, President; Will Calkins, Secretary and Treasurer; Harry Calkins, Chief Engineer; Justin Macklin and Barton Tarbell, Section Men."

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The piles of stone industriously collected by our fathers are disappearing from the fields and wayside to be used in the building of the State road.

## XXII

### PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS

H. J. W. G.

**R**USHFORD has always excelled in home talent entertainments and Rushford people think no other quite so interesting.

In "war time" an "Old Folks' Concert," under the leadership of Norman Beecher, was given in the Methodist Church. On this occasion Mrs. George Lyon most beautifully sang "Comin' thro' the Rye;" but it was afterwards whispered that the singing was altogether too theatrical for a minister's wife.

When J. E. McIntyre was principal of Rushford Academy, exercises were held in the afternoon to which the public was invited. Lottie McIntyre dressed in white, with a flower in her hair, sang "We'll hang Jeff Davis to a sour apple tree;" and Clara Higgins recited Drake's "American Flag."

There have been school exhibitions galore, but the enthusiasm was unusual when the school was divided into two parts with W. H. Acker as one leader and Lewis Ely the other. W. H. Acker robbed his mother's parlor of its furniture to beautify the stage, the evening his side was to appear. When Lewis Ely's side took part, a song was sung by four young men, each representing a different nationality in costume, manner, and speech. Frank Higgins, the Englishman, sang of Britannia; Willis Leavens, the Irishman, sang of Auld Ireland; Charles Persons, the Dutchman, sang of the Fatherland; Lewis Ely, the Yankee, sang of Colum-



## An Old Folks' Concert

bia. Each keeping his peculiar form of speech, they all joined in the chorus "America, America," etc. The effect was fine.

At a later period Mrs. Jarley's Wax Works, represented by boys and girls, made an effective tableau. Some of the figures were grotesque, others interesting, but Cupid with snow-white wings, prepared by Mrs. C. H. Norris, was loveliest of all.

The first drill upon the stage of the Rushford Union Graded School was about 1879, when six girls and six boys, all dressed in light blue costumes trimmed with white, to music marched upon the stage, in serpentine form, to their respective places. The girls, in front, went through with a series of movements in light gymnastics, then in regular order they took their places in the background while the boys marched to the front and with dumbbells went through with their exercises; after which all marched from the stage. The music, the color, the regular movements, the novelty, made a delightful impression. Those who participated were Elizabeth Charles, Bessie Gordon (Mrs. J. Monroe), Ora Gates (Mrs. Byron Woods), Lena Sill (Mrs. Werries), Grace Beecher (Mrs. W. Croop), Jennie Thomas (Mrs. Verner Taylor), Grant Woods, William Stone, Charles Benjamin, Lucian Benjamin, Fred Hardy and Leon Brooks. Jessie Cook (Mrs. C. M. Tarbell) played the organ.

## AN OLD FOLKS' CONCERT

The programs were printed on brown paper. The concert was under the direction of Mrs. C. W. Woodworth and Milton M. Woods. The singing master was "ye venerable" Milton M. Woods and the "organers" were Carrie Bixby and Clara Claus. The first in order of entertainment was

## Public Entertainments

the marching of the singers through the hall, some of whom were hardly recognized in their old-fashioned dress.

This was the announcement:

*Greate Singing Meeting*

to be held in

*Rushford Towne*

at ye

District School House

which is set down on ye streete named Maine, nigh about ye middle way, on ye right-hand side as ye be going up and on ye contrary side as ye be coming down ye same,

*Friday Night*

at early candle light,

ye same being ye

XVI of ye Mo. of September MDCCCXCII.

Ye Bige Doore

will be unbarred about sun-downe and ye sounding of ye music will begin at 8 off ye time beater's watch.

A number of songs, among which were "New Jerusalem," "Yankee Doodle" and "Strike the Cymbal," were sung by "All ye Menne and Women Singers." "Auld Lang Syne," sung by Mrs. Almond Benjamin, Mrs. Maria Benjamin, Mrs. Roxana Kendall, Mrs. A. L. Adams, D. C. Woods, Andrew Kimball and M. M. Woods, was received with applause, and they were presented with a basket of flowers. The youngest of these singers was sixty-one.

"Grandma's Advice," sung by Genevieve Pratt was a happy choice.

My grandma lives on yonder little green,  
Fine old lady as ever was seen,  
But she often cautions me with care  
Of all false young men to beware.

## An Old Folks' Concert

Chorus—

Tim-e-i, tim-e-um-tum,  
Tim-e-um, pa, ta,  
Of all false young men to beware.

The first came a courting was little Johnny Green,  
Fine young man as ever was seen,  
But the words of my grandma ran in my head  
So I could not hear one word he said.

Chorus—

The next came a courting was young Ellis Grove;  
'Twas then we met with a joyous love.  
With a joyous love I couldn't be afraid  
You'd better get married than die an old maid.

Chorus—

Thinks I to myself there has been some mistake.  
What a fuss these old folks make!  
If the boys and the girls had all been so afraid,  
Then grandma herself would have died an old maid.

Chorus—

S. E. Wilmot, G. C. Woods, D. W. Woods and C. C. Colburn sang that enlivening quartet "The Yankee Sleigh Ride."

"Come, Mirabella Hopkins, hie away  
For Jonathan is waiting in a sleigh  
And Mary Phoebe Ann and Susan Jane,

## Public Entertainments

And Anna Bella Jones and Jotham Lane  
Will join us with a singing  
While ting-a-ling-a-ling-ling go the bells,  
The time is swiftly winging,  
As merrily the music swells."

The simple and charming Quaker love song, "Dost Thou Love Me, Sister Ruth?" was sung responsively by Mary Thomas and Stephen Wilmot, who were dressed in Quaker costume; Mrs. F. G. Gordon rendered a lullaby; Lucian Benjamin, Grant C. Woods, D. W. Woods and Minnie Sarsfield (Mrs. Newman H. Woods) sang "Cousin Jedediah;" and Milton M. Woods, with a voice of rare quality, sang "Within a Mile of Edinboro Town."

Mrs. Philanda Brooks in her quaint costume, her complexion fresh as a girl's, her face lighted up with enjoyment, made a picture not easily forgotten. Many who attended the concert were in the recently repaired hall for the first time. After partaking of the hot coffee and fried cakes in the "old kitchen" below, people returned to their homes, having passed a delightful evening. The concert was repeated Saturday evening and \$125 in all was realized toward seating the hall.

## DEESTRIK SKULE

February 22, 1895

Names of those who took part (for the most part, middle-aged or elderly people) :

Mister Ichabod Numskull (Teacher)	.....E. C. Gilbert
Grover Cleveland	.....Wm. Beaumont
John Tull	.....W. H. Leavens
Sally Dusenberry	.....Mrs. H. J. Walter
Little Bobbie Dusenberry (visitor)	.....W. H. Benson

## Deestrik Skule

Jedediah Slim.....	C. W. Croop
Wm. McKinley.....	Andrew Kimball
Dinah Dingledine.....	Mrs. C. O. Sayres
Cynthia Jones.....	Mrs. C. H. Ives
Alfred Green.....	W. W. Thomas
Susan B. Anthony.....	Mrs. W. S. Mulliken
Adelaide Bragg (twin).....	Miss Mary Thomas
Adeline Bragg (twin).....	Mrs. C. W. Croop
Huckleberry Finn.....	B. D. Kyes
Morris Alby.....	Wm. Ingleby
Belva Lockwood.....	Mrs. W. W. Thomas
Walter Rose.....	Alfred Davis
Polly Perkins.....	Mrs. E. C. Gilbert
Nahum Nameless.....	W. S. Mulliken
Betsey Prigg.....	Mrs. Alfred Davis
Samantha Allen.....	Mrs. W. W. Bush
Tommy Bellows.....	D. W. Woods
Bridget McGinty.....	Mrs. W. W. Merrill
Thomas Platt.....	M. M. Woods
Squire Kicker (Trustee).....	Paul Dowe
Mrs. Kicker.....	Mrs. Homer Brooks
Deacon Wayback (Trustee).....	C. W. Ives

### Going to School.

The schoolmaster in Mr. Talcott's white linen pants, his grandfather's vest, a blue and white checkered stock and a tall hat; girls in short cotton dresses and sunbonnets, carrying dinner pails; boys playing leap-frog; and Sally Dusenberry drawing her little brother Bobbie in his wagon, made a pleasing scene.

### Forenoon.

The schoolmaster was sitting in his chair having in one hand a book, in the other a gad which he had occasion



## Public Entertainments

to use freely. Scholars were studying without regard to their neighbors; paper wads were flying and various complaints were being made. Jedediah Slim came in late, bringing a cabbage for the teacher; going to present it, he fell flat upon the floor. Alfred Green and Morris Alby, black as the ace of spades, came to school wearing boots of great size, in the tops of which were playthings to amuse themselves, and apples to devour behind large geographies. Studying they never thought of.

There was snapping of fingers, then Sally Dusenberry said, "Teacher, please can I go out? It's necessary;" and Dinah Dingleline said, "Teacher, please can I pass the water?" When Dinah was passing it, Nahum Nameless gave the bottom of the cup a hit and the water flew in all directions.

Huckleberry Finn had a large wooden monkey that would run over a stick; this he quickly shot up for the edification of the school when the teacher's back was turned. Teacher and scholars walked about the room, each one unconscious that he was decked with pieces of paper. On Samantha Allen's back was pinned "Weight 500 lbs."

Meantime the classes were reciting. Grover Cleveland, William McKinley, Belva Lockwood, Susan B. Anthony and Thomas Platt formed the infant class. When the grammar class were taking their places, Dinah Dingleline was told to move along; she moved and John Tull was pushed onto the floor. He got up in a rage, but was pacified by the teacher's giving him a chair. Walter Rose with his "Yes, sir; 'tis so, yes, sir," was in the class. The like of their parsing was never heard before or since.

The geography class came next. Teacher—Where is the mouth of the Mississippi?

Scholar—In its head.

## Deestrik Skule

The school commissioner, a young man by the name of Bluestone, was in the audience.

Teacher—Give the productions of Western New York.

Scholar—Horses, sheep, hogs, butter, cheese, potatoes, flagstone and Bluestone.

Teacher—Huckleberry Finn, bound the town of Rushford.

Huckleberry—Rushford is bounded on the north by Centerville, on the east by Suckerville, on the south by Bellville, and on the west by snowbanks.

Teacher—Tommy Bellows, name the animals.

Tommy then distinguished himself by rattling off his long list of animals without a break, coming out strong on “anaconda, hare.”

Teacher—Alfred Green, where is Cleveland?

Alfred Green (gruffly)—Gone fishing.

The spelling class was next called. They took their places on the floor, toeing the mark. Poor Adeline Bragg, the tall twin, could not spell, so she was made to sit on a high stool and wear a dunce cap. Betsey Prigg could spell glibly and pronounce the syllables as C-o-n, Con, s-t-a-n, stan, Con-stan, t-i-, ti, Con-stan-ti, n-o, no, Con-stan-ti-no, p-l-e, ple, Con-stan-ti-no-ple. Morris spelled so that no one could recognize the word. The teacher would then say, “Next.” When the next spelled the word correctly and went above Morris, he would invariably raise his hand, snap his fingers and say, “Teacher, that’s just the way I spelled it.”

Noon.

Eating dinner was a prominent feature of the noontime. One of the colored boys had a Johnny-cake for dinner. John Tull had a berry turnover which looked so tempting to Cyn-

## Public Entertainments

thia Jones that she said, "Let me have just a taste." John generously gave her a bite. Poor little Bobby Dusenberry cried, saying "I want a cooky, I want a cooky." Bridget McGinty wanted to kiss Bobbie, but he would not be kissed. After the dinner pails were put away "Ring around the rosy" and "Needle's Eye" were played.

### Afternoon.

There was first an Address of Welcome by Dinah Dingledine, followed by a song by Tommy Bellows; then Grover Cleveland, after bowing with great gusto, recited "Twinkle, twinkle, little star." Polly Perkins, wearing a blue and white checked gingham dress with pantalets to match, and a ruffled pink calico apron, recited in a sing-song tone "On Linden when the sun was low." Walter Rose read a composition upon "The Cow." This was followed by a declamation, "The boy stood on the burning deck," by Jedediah Slim, whose bow equaled that of Grover Cleveland. The twins taking hold of hands sang "Chicka-dee." John Tull drew his crumpled composition upon the various kinds of pants, from a pocketful of strings, nails, fishhooks and—what not? The school then sang the multiplication table in concert with "Five times five are twenty-five," etc.; to the tune of "Yankee Doodle" for the chorus. After others had taken part, remarks were made by Squire Kicker and the teacher. The exercises closed by singing "America."

Mrs. Kicker, who came with her husband to visit the school, wore a plaid silk dress of bright colors a kerchief and a sky-scraper bonnet filled in at the top with artificial flowers. Her work she carried in a bead bag. During the exercises, as she sat busily engaged in knitting, her ball gave her much trouble by rolling onto the floor.

## Deestrik Skule

People who came to the "Deestrik Skule" with long faces went away with broad ones. It was largely original and was, perhaps, the funniest entertainment ever given in Rushford. It was repeated, and the proceeds of both evenings were used toward paying for the square piano, still in use in the Academy Hall.

The entertainment was largely original, taking form during the hours of rehearsal.

The Address of Eddy Clifton Gilbert, President of the Cosmopolitan University, to the graduating class of 1909. (The members of the class were Ellen Lyman, Jennie Woods Gordon, Julia Tarbell Merrill, Minnie Sarsfield Woods. Alice Goetz, Willis Hamilton Leavens,\* Lester Sterner, William Woods. W. W. Bush was President of the Board of Trustees. The entertainment was given at the Academy Hall, March 19, 1909, under the auspices of the Literary and Social Department of the Epworth League. Committee: Mrs. A. M. Tarbell, Mrs. William W. Bush, Mrs. Newman Woods.)

I am glad to meet you on this suspicious occasion. I say, fearless of successful contradiction, that of all classes, upper, lower or middle, you are the most scrumptious of any I have ever had the honor of addressing. You are now to leave the classic halls of the great Cosmopolitan University, whose protecting arms have been folded about you during your transitory period, and go out into a bad, boisterous, buffeting, cold, carnal, deceitful, evil, fault-finding, indifferent, melancholy, proud, selfish, sour, surly, unreliable, unsympathetic, unprincipled, unhappy, cussed old world to travel alone, and if you make your marks, except with a pencil, while traveling through this vale of tears, you must

\*The place of Mr. Leavens was taken by Abram Pratt Benjamin.

## Public Entertainments

summon to your aid all the cheek and brass and sand ob-  
tainable.

I do not expect you to be Theodore Roosevelts, **you** haven't the teeth; or William Jennings Bryans, your mouths arn't big enough; or Carrie Nations, especially **you** boys, or even to equal the venerable President of the Board of Trustees of the great Cosmopolitan University, he has a monopoly of all the snake stories, but you may all be able to ride in an automobile—that is, if the machine holds out and Editor Benjamin asks you. But 'midst all these trials keep our class motto in mind, "We are the stuff"—and we hope the world won't find you as green as you look. When Catherine Aragon founded this foundling hospital—er—I should say Cosmopolitan University, she meant to found a foundry to mold people for all the walks of life that wanted to be molded in her mold. It is not for me to say what walk of life you must walk in. I can only suggest. Doubtless some of you would make good step-mothers—I allude more particularly to the female members of **the** class. Dancing masters have a lively time, and though the gossips work over-time, it seems to be a charming profession and is open to both sexes. In fact with your training you **are** able to walk on any walk, gravel, stone or cement, and in the language of our class motto, do not forget "We are the stuff." In the words of the immortal Shakespeare,

Some men were born for great things,  
And some were born for small,  
And some, it has not been recorded  
Why they were born at all.



## XXIII

### MOVEMENTS

Ellen Lyman

#### MORMONS OR LATTER DAY SAINTS

**F**IRST in order of events comes the Mormon or Latter Day Saint movement under Joseph Smith the "Prophet of the Lord," the beginning of which occurred in 1830 and the ending no man can prophesy.

The first regularly constituted church was organized at Manchester, New York, in April, 1830, and consisted of only six members of whom Joseph Smith was the chief; soon after, Sydney Rigdon and a man by the name of Pratt joined the ranks and were made elders, the first of whom, Rigdon, was famous as a powerful expounder of the faith and a successful proselyter. A few years ago there were many living in Rushford who could testify to his wonderful power. At the time of the death of Joseph Smith he claimed the right to the Mormon presidency, but he was defeated by Brigham Young and cut off from the church.

For a time Rushford seemed to be a center of their activities; meetings were held by Rigdon and others, in the schoolhouses and in many private dwellings; converts were numerous and many were baptized near the old schoolhouse\* on the Creek Road. It was in that vicinity that the cavalcade formed when they started on their journey to Kirtland, Ohio. From Kirtland they went to Missouri, thence to Nauvoo, Illinois. One of our townsmen, Asa G. Morse, was in Nauvoo when they were sold out by the sheriff; he says

\*The old schoolhouse stood on the south side of the road, near the bridge.

## Movements

"There were forty acres of land, on which were fifteen acres of fine wheat, sold for fifteen dollars."

About the time that this new doctrine began to be preached around Rushford, fashion decreed that the coats worn by gentlemen should have the sleeves full at the top; the resident minister of the Methodist Church had occasion to buy a new coat; since it had the fashionable sleeve to which many of the members objected, it caused some dissension in the church. The elders of the Mormon faith seized the opportunity. Among the many to whom the new doctrine strongly appealed were Eliza Ann Lyon (Mrs. O. Phelps) and Frazier Eaton, the first of whom, Mrs. Phelps, went as far as Nauvoo, but becoming disaffected by the new departure, polygamy, she returned to Kirtland, renounced the faith and became a member of the Methodist Church. Mr. Eaton was a prosperous farmer, (owning and occupying the place west of the village now known as the Clark Woods farm), and a prominent member of the Methodist Church. He disposed of all his property and joined the numbers who gathered for their long journey. It was said that he converted all his means into silver dollars of which he had a peck. Not many years after, he returned poor in purse, broken in health and spirits and never seemed to regain his former thrift.

There are none of the belief living in Rushford now, though there are some in the county.

## TEMPERANCE.

Next in point of time comes the Temperance movement of 1840, and the enactment of prohibitory laws inseparably connected with the name of Neal Dow.

It was during this year that the Washingtonian Society

## Spiritualism

was formed and Rushford contained many members, in fact, it has always, as a town, been allied with all temperance movements, such as the Sons of Temperance, the Good Templars, of which during the sixties there was a flourishing lodge, and now the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. The local union was instituted by Mrs. Rosina Damon Evans. Mrs. Harvey Alderman, of this village, was its first president. During the first years of its existence, it secured the services of Horace Bemis, of Hornellsville, a prominent jurist of Western New York, and none who heard him will ever forget his brilliant address delivered in the Methodist Church. Later, in 1887, P. A. Burdick, of Alfred, came and during his stay there occurred a great religious as well as temperance revival, for, as some remarked, "Temperance and religion should walk hand in hand, though some are not inclined to be religious in their temperance, nor temperate in their religion."

## SPIRITUALISM

About the year 1852 or '53' a young girl about twelve years of age by the name of Cora L. V. Scott, whose mother, Lodensy, was a daughter of Oliver Butterfield, began speaking to small gatherings of spiritualists in Cuba, Rushford and adjoining towns. Some years later she spoke in the Rushford Academy, when G. W. F. Buck was in charge, from the subject, "Correlation and Conservation of Force." She had no opportunity for preparation on this special theme, as the topic was given after her arrival at the hall. Those who had the pleasure of hearing her were greatly interested and considered the subject handled in an eloquent and logical manner. She is now Mrs. Cora L. V. Scott Richmond, of Chicago, where she has been speaking many

## Movements

years and where she is pastor of "The Church of the Soul." Every summer she speaks at Lily Dale, Chautauqua County.

When Spiritualism is mentioned some think immediately of the bloomers worn by some of the women, and the long hair of some of the men, supposing these things were requirements; but this is a mistake. Many outside of that belief considered the short dress more convenient and sanitary, but no such reason was ever given for the long hair.

About fifty years ago, many Spiritualists in Rushford and Farmersville thought it best to unite and provide a permanent place for holding their meetings; accordingly on what is known as the "Old Hubbard Place"\* in Farmersville, a structure was built and used as a Spiritualist temple. It was in size, perhaps sixteen by thirty feet, and peculiar in that it had no windows and was entered by way of a trap door. A few years ago, there were many of our townspeople who had attended the meetings held there.

## REVIVALS

In 1857-1858 occurred what was called the "Great Awakening." It did not depend so much upon any leader or preacher, however eloquent, and was far from being sectional or denominational, as it seemed to be the outgrowth of a need felt in common by the masses of the people who had just passed through the great financial tornado of 1857 which swept over the land and gave weight to the truth that "the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." Old residents have said that though the town felt the financial depression keenly, the religious awakening was of incalculable benefit.

About forty years ago, a company of men, old and

\*Now owned by C. G. Wiser.

## Revivals

young, called the "Praying Band," came into this county to hold meetings. The people of Rushford felt the necessity of a more general attention to religious matters, so they were invited to come and hold a series of meetings. Warren Damon, a prominent member of the Methodist Church, and W. H. Leavens, who was in the employ of Wolcott Griffin, went to Wiscoy, then Mixville, after them. The band consisted of eight or nine members of which Blakesley, Bolles, Corey and Father Hard are distinctly remembered. The meetings were successful, arousing the whole town, and many were the accessions to the churches.

Later, in 1875-6, the waves of the great revival movement under Dwight L. Moody reached Rushford, awakening many to the need of a consecrated life.



## XXIV

### THE PRESS

#### THE PRESS IN RUSHFORD

Eddy C. Gilbert

WHEN given this subject our first question was which press was meant—printing press, clothes press, cheese press or cider press, as all these have played their part in our history.

In June, 1846, the first printing press was used in Rushford, when H. E. Purdy with the assistance of A. P. Laning founded the *Republican Era*. The terms were a dollar and a half a year if paid in advance, two dollars if paid within the year and twenty-five cents extra when delivered at the door of village subscribers. In 1848 the price was reduced to one dollar—twenty-five cents extra if paid in produce. Previous to this the news must have been circulated by the dressmakers, the traveling shoemakers and the “setters” in the village stores. Democratic in politics, the editorials of the *Republican Era* during the Van Buren-Cass campaign of '48 furnished information similar to that of the city papers of the present. The news was mainly of a political nature. A call for a Democratic County Convention to be held at Angelica is signed by A. P. Laning as one of the committee—an honor his nephew has not yet attained. A crop report of August, 1847, which said that the oat crop was abundant, corn good and potatoes rotting badly, is all the local news in that issue. In another issue, the local news is confined to two items, one that the “abolitioners” commenced a kind of four day meeting in this place on Tuesday, and the other the marriage of

## The Press in Rushford

Andrew Kimball and Maria Hardy. It was a county paper; there were no seven column articles on base ball, no mention of Sunday visits at Fairview, or the reshingling of the oldest hog pen in Hardscrabble or any of the newsy locals from the school districts that make the modern newspaper. The marriage notices were in the old conventional form. Hence we know not who was there, what the presents were, or whether they were a worthy young couple and had hosts of friends. No birth notices—hence we conclude that there were no sweet little daughters born at that period.

A. P. Laning, W. A. Stewart, D. W. Leavens, Grover Leavens, G. L. Walker and George Bishop have cards as lawyers. The physicians mentioned were L. B. Johnson, W. McCall, H. H. Smith and James Ward, a botanic doctor. These men were all located in Rushford in 1847.

In general advertising there were James and Luther Gordon, who were called "the boys," The Empire Dry Goods Store; Irwin and Remington, The People's Store; J. D. Boardman; L. R. Skaats, Marble Factory; W. McCall and Company, Drugs and Books; George and Doolittle, who called themselves "the little men," Variety Store; Clark McCall, Variety Store; Miss E. Wing, Millinery; H. Hyde, Jeweler; S. Root, Chair Factory; H. Dockstader and C. Smith, Tailors; Israel Thompson, Carriage Making and Blacksmithing, he also continues the manufacture of axes and mechanic's edge tools; D. Dunham, Carriage and Wagon Manufactory; B. F. Lewellen, Boots and Groceries; S. and H. K. White, Iron Foundry, Castings of all descriptions, also Plows of the latest and most improved pattern. N. McCall advertises eight dozen Scythes, six dozen Scythe Snaths, two and one-half dozen Forks and ten dozen Rakes. East Rushford is represented by Haynes and Johnson,

## The Press

Wagon and Carriage Making; D. B. and J. A. Haynes, Cabinet and Chair Making; Place and Delano, Blacksmithing, Mill Irons a specialty; G. Grimard, Grist and Flouring Mill; M. McCall, East Rushford Linseed Oil Mill; C. McDonald, Blacksmith Shop—on Angelica Street six doors west of Crocker Street near the Hydraulics. David C. Smith gives notice that his wife Ruth has left his bed and board. All persons indebted to Chase and Gillman must call and settle immediately. We will give a portion of the advertisements of two men who but a few years ago were familiar figures on our streets.

“A live Painter caught and tamed so as to be perfectly harmless and of great service to man. A. L. Adams will give his special attention to house painting on the Hook and Ladder Mop System or with the brush to suit employers and for beauty and durability of workmanship he challenges competition. The Painter can be seen by calling at the first door east of Clark McCall’s Store, Main Street, Rushford.”

“Pro Bono Publico! Peoples Emporium No. 1 Empire Block. N. A. Hume, after many years of patient toil, research and experience has at last discovered the all important and long-lost secret which has been shrouded in oblivion since the days of the immortal Shakespeare, that ‘there is a cut in the clothes of men which taken at the making leads on to fashion,’ and is now prepared to exhibit specimens of his taste in this long neglected and much abused art to the whole civilized world and more particularly to the inhabitants of Rushford and vicinity who may see fit to bestow upon him their patronage in the tailoring line. The antiquated and abused idea that it takes nine tailors to make a man is now exploded. The maxim more in accordance with the advanced age in which we live is that ‘a

## The Press in Rushford

Tailor who cannot make nine men is considered unworthy to be classed among the fraternity of artists.' Tailoring in common with the sister arts,—Poetry, Painting and Sculpture—is too refined and ethereal in its nature to be appreciated by the mass of mankind. To ameliorate the condition of suffering humanity in general, he has opened for sale a choice and well-selected stock of Ready-made Clothing. Persons wishing to buy good clothing will find it to their interest to call and examine his stock before purchasing the out-of-style, second-hand, miserable and flimsy trash, generally kept in Clothing Stores."

Patent medicine advertising occupied an entire page. There appeared The Infallible Bug Bane, Balsam of Naptha and Wau-a-hoo, Extract of Yellow Dock and Sarsaparilla, Indian Pulmonary Balsam and Vegetable Lithon triptic, with the usual testimonials from Horace Greeley to Clark McCall.

A notice was published in 1846 that an application would be made to the next legislature for an act to incorporate the village of Rushford. In October, 1848, the *Republican Era* was removed to Angelica.

The first copy of the *Weekly News Letter* was issued February 5, 1859, by H. H. Chapen, who was then only nineteen years of age. This issue contains the time card of the New York and Erie R. R. for Cuba, and the arrival and departure of mails from Rushford; daily mail from Cuba and Belvidere and three times a week from Arcade, Fillmore and Franklinville; S. Hardy postmaster.

The following advertisements are found in the *News Letter* of 1859: J. A. Hubbell, Draper and Tailor, who also advertises to do machine stitching and hemming; Globe Hotel, William C. Gray, proprietor; White and Blanchard, Iron Foundry; Rushford Academy of Music, J. Vickery,

## The Press

Principal; Woodworth's Variety Store, Everything in the line of Groceries and Provisions kept constantly on hand; H. Howe, Dealer in Saddles, Harness, Trunks, Valises, etc.; Mrs. H. R. Palmer invites the attention of the Ladies of Rushford to her new assortment of Spring and Summer Millinery Goods; Tousley and Chamberlain, Manufacturers and Wholesale Dealers in Crackers, Candy and Cigars; L. (i. Beecher is better than ever prepared (with a new lot of chemicals) to take pictures on glass, iron, leather or paper; Galpin and Tubbs, successors to Merryfield and Galpin, Cabinet Ware and Chairs. They keep constantly on hand Coffins of all sizes at the following rates:—Large size Cherry Coffins, neatly trimmed \$6.00; Pine, Large Size, \$3.00; Small, \$2.00; Black Walnut, \$8.00. Having a new and elegant Hearse we will attend funerals at any distance within five miles free of charge.

B. T. Roberts will hold a meeting in this village commencing February 25, 1859. The Editor advertises for news, and says his columns are open to all religious and other societies having a worthy end in view. A St. Valentine's Ball is advertised to take place at the Globe Hotel, Monday Eve, the fifteenth. Mr. Gray extends an invitation to all lovers of dancing. A "good time may be expected." The local news consisted of two marriages and two deaths. No comments, so we do not know how the brides were dressed, or what out-of-town people attended the funeral.

The Editor must have enjoyed a joke, as fun is on every page. The hoop-skirt period was at its height. "The marriage of Mr. Cooper to Miss Staves is announced. The result will probably be little barrels!" There is nothing more certain in this age since 'hoops' are so abundant." "The lady who burst into tears has been put together again, and is now wearing hoops to prevent a recurrence of the acci-



## The Press in Rushford

dent." "In front of a certain literary institution in a neighboring town may be seen the sign: 'Smith and Huggs, Select School.' Smith teaches the boys and Huggs the girls."

From the discontinuance of the *News Letter* Rushford was without a local paper until the *Spectator* was founded in 1878 by Frank B. Smith. In 1883 it passed into the hands of the present editor and proprietor, W. F. Benjamin. It now has a subscription list of twenty-three hundred and excels in local news.

## RUSHFORD

AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "RUSHFORD" BY H. E.  
PURDY IN THE "REPUBLICAN ERA" OF  
JULY 22, 1846

**I**T is but a few years since our beautiful village commenced springing into existence. It is now growing more rapidly than any village (excepting Dansville) in Western New York. While every other place has been borne down by pressures and the suspension of public works, Rushford has advanced steadily on in growth and prosperity.

It is now the largest village in the county. It has more enterprise and industry, better mechanics and more business energy than any other village of like advantages in the State.

Surrounded, as it is, by a rich farming country, now reaching a very high state of cultivation, it must, of necessity become a center and focus of business. Five years ago what is now Main Street was a highway bounded by vacant lots, and the very spot upon which stands the block in which our office is located, was a pasture hemmed in by a *log fence*. Several new buildings are now under progress of erection, and others are to be commenced the present season. Every thing denotes a real and substantial growth—one which is required by the increasing trade and business demands of its inhabitants. We have already ten stores of different kinds and more are to be added to the list this fall. Almost every branch of the mechanic arts is

## Rushford Village in 1848

carried on, and we know of no mechanic but what is doing a good, money-making business.

Under every consideration, Rushford asks to be pointed to a rival in prosperity.

## RUSHFORD VILLAGE IN 1848

H. J. W. G.

STEPHEN PARKER was the landlord in Cephas Young's old tavern on Commercial Street;\* this hotel stood on the lot now owned by Mrs. James G. Benjamin: south of it was the blacksmith shop of D. S. Dunham, back of which was the wagon shop of James T. Wier and Albert Gage. North of the hotel was the store of Truman Swift,† a man who could not keep books, but who could carry the accounts of a day in his head if his son DeAlton were away. Across the road from the store, James Thirds had a tailor shop. In February W. White, a former partner of Truman Swift, was occupying a building on Commercial Street five doors from the corner, selling "seasonable goods of all varieties." His store stood on the land between E. L. Slocum's and Mrs. Carrie Swetland's houses; but it was not long before he moved into the building now occupied as a dwelling by Mrs. Edna King. At this time Mr. White lived in the house now owned by Mrs. Swetland.

On Commercial Street, at head of Main Street, stood the Globe Hotel, J. A. Colby, proprietor. On the corner of Main and Upper Streets, in Oramel Griffin's old store, was the People's Store of Irwin & Remington, where one could buy anything from a scythe to a French bonnet. Across

\*Now Upper Street.

†The grandfather of Truman Horton.

## Rushford

the road on the corner stood the store of J. D. Boardman who was "determined not to be undersold by any establishment in Rushford, the Gordon Block not excepted." The house where Mrs. Julia Benson and daughter Mary live was the home of Lyman Congdon, north of which was his shoe shop; south of his house was the blacksmith shop of J. G. Osborn.

'James's old store' on the corner of Main and Church Streets, was called the Empire Store or the Gordon Block; in this block were the general store of J. & L. Gordon, whose "goods were like race horses because they went so fast;" the tailor shop of N. A. Hume; and, on the second floor, the office of the *Republican Era*. On the opposite corner was the Furnace of S. & H. K. White. Across the road from the Gordon Block and just east of the Methodist Chapel was the law office of A. P. Laning; the building has recently been moved to the back part of the lot. The law office of G. L. Walker was upstairs in the Furnace.

On Main Street nearly opposite the Presbyterian Church, Harmon Hyde kept a jewelry store, where one could buy not only jewelry, but silk for purses, gold pencils, flutes and snuff boxes. It is now used as a dwelling. Just east of Mr. Hyde's jewelry store, Harry Howe, a harness-maker, lived; his shop was east of his house.

In the block spoken of the year before as "the new building of McCall & Adams"\* were the Variety Store of George & Doolittle and, in the basement, the tailoring establishment of Henry Dockstader.† This building was afterwards called the Corinthian Block because of a large pillar which stood at the southeast corner of the porch; later it was called the Adams Block; now it is the Thomas Block.

\*Jacob McCall and Archibald Adams.

†In March James Thirds and Henry Dockstader entered into partnership.

## Rushford Village in 1848

On the corner of Main and Lewellen Streets stood the Variety Store of Clark McCall, brother of Dr. Wm. McCall, where one could buy pills, caps or crowbars. The Rushford Tin-Ware and Stove Store of Isaiah Lathrop occupied the corner of Main and Buffalo Streets. The first door east of this building was the Chair Factory of Selah Root. In the Union Block, which joined the Chair Factory, were the Drug and Book Store of Dr. Wm. McCall & Co. (No. 5) and the law offices of Grover Leavens and George Bishop. For a few days, Mr. J. H. Mattison took rooms in the Union Block where he executed Daguerreotype Likenesses in the most approved style. "Secure the shadow ere the substance fade." A part of the Union Block was raised, making a third story which was used as a public hall. This building burned more than twenty years ago.

The Washington House (Temperance) is now the Tarbell House; Dr. William McCall was the proprietor. On the corner of West Main and Lower Streets, Nelson McCall kept a general store. In this store was the postoffice—James McCall, postmaster. Across the road from McCall's store, on the corner of Main and Lower Streets, stood the dry goods store of Charles Gillman\* and James Davidson. Just east of this store was the wagon shop and next the blacksmith shop of Israel Thompson. Across the road and west of W. H. Thomas' house (then Mr. Howser's) was the blacksmith shop of Alpheus Howser. Where Mrs. B. B. Heald's millinery store stands, Smith Tuller had a shop where from lambs' wool which he collected from the farmers, he made felt, and from the felt, he made hats.

Charles H. Smith, the "Knight of the Shears," lived on Buffalo Street in the house now owned by the Crockers;

\*Chase & Gillman dissolved partnership February 1. Charles Gillman lived east of the Presbyterian Church.



## Rushford

north of this house was the shoe shop of James Green, in his dwelling; south of Mr. Smith's house was the cabinet shop of John and William Merryfield. The tannery and shoe shop of Joseph Bell were on the west side of this street. On Lower Street toward Gordonville in the house now owned by John J. Thomas, John Doland lived; his shoe shop was south of his house. In Gordonville were the woolen factory and gristmill. On the Caneadea road, on the site of Mrs. Luther Thomas' home, Richard Adams had a shoe shop.

The Academy was not yet built; but during this period there were select schools where higher branches were taught. The schoolhouse in the west district was on West Main Street at the foot of the hill, near the burying ground; H. A. Kimball taught the summer school and B. F. Perry\* and Sarah Mitchell the winter school. The little red schoolhouse in the east district was between two hills and near Indian Creek. There were four churches—the Baptist, the Rev. E. L. Harris, pastor; the Methodist Episcopal, the Rev. Chauncey S. Baker pastor before the Annual Conference, and the Rev. John McEuen after; the Presbyterian, the Rev. S. A. Rawson pastor; and the Universalist, the Rev. Jacob Saxe pastor. The churches were well attended.

Orville Boardman was supervisor and Harvey George town clerk.

The location of Skaats' Marble Factory is not known. When Mrs. Achsah Champlin was asked concerning it, she said, "I do not remember the name, I am sorry; but if I bore the name of Skaats I wouldn't want anyone to remember mine."

\*Benjamin F. Perry, son of Ebenezer P. Perry.

## List of Letters

### NOTES.

Truman Swift's store is now owned by Seward Mulliken and stands on the high land near the First Burying Ground. Clark McCall's store is now Dr. Bixby's farm house.

The "little red schoolhouse" was used by Samuel Lewis as a carpenter shop; it was torn down by Charles Tuller in 1907.

After the Gothic schoolhouse was built on the back street, the old schoolhouse on West Main Street was used by Samuel Thompson, and later by Marshall Nye, as a carpenter shop; it is now a carriage house on the farm of Eddy C. Gilbert.

The Merryfield cabinet shop is the meat market of Frank W. Damon.

### LIST OF LETTERS REMAINING IN THE POSTOFFICE AT RUSHFORD, JANUARY 1, 1848

Adams, Sylvester	Hopkins, E. M. & W. A.
Alderman, Amba	Stacy
Brainard, Adaliga	Lumis, Wm.
Branch, Hulda	Moore, Richard
Clark, Amzi	Orcutt, Lucinda
Clark, George	Phettyplace, Wm.
Cole, Orange	Perry, Jones
Delamater, J. H.	Peck, Elijah
Dockstader, H. F., 3	Revnolds, Lewis
Frost, Lucien	Shepard, W. F
Eastman, Mrs. Lydia	Silsby, Harry
Eaton, Aaron	Slater, John

## Rushford

Goforth, Wm.  
 Gilbert, David B.  
 Hurlbert, Hannah  
 Hews, Richard

Tubbs, James  
 Valentine, Stephen  
 Woodworth, Luther

### STREETS OF RUSHFORD

* 1910.	1848.
Main .....	Main
Upper .....	Commercial
Lower .....	Olean
West Main .....	Ellicott
Concrete .....	Lewellen*
Buffalo .....	Buffalo
Church .....	East Cross (1859)
Lewellen, back, Cemetery.....	Grave Lane

### A COMPARISON

H. J. W. G.

SOME of the things Rushford people were engaged in February, 1838, as shown by an extract from a letter written by Mrs. Abraham J. Lyon.

“Emeline goes to singing school, likewise to dancing school, and Eben goes too. There is everything going on here. There is a meeting here that has held two weeks. Achsah, Hiram and Elijah,† George Swift, Simon and Laura

\*B. F. Lewellen lived where Marcus Eaton now lives, on the corner of Concrete and Lewellen Streets. The name Lewellen was first given to what is now Concrete Street. On this street about where A. M. Tarbell's warehouse now is, stood Mr. Lewellen's carpenter shop.

†Achsa, Hiram and Elijah were children of Cromwell and Zeruah Pratt Bennett.

## A Comparison

Gordon, Sam Gordon's wife, all of Tarbel's family, Dorothy Pierce, and Bill Kingsbury—these are not a quarter part of the converts."

Some of the things Rushford people were engaged in February, 1910:

The first of the month the Methodist and Baptist Churches held union meetings in the Methodist Church. They were assisted by the Rev. Lewis R. Williams, late from Wales, who edified the people by his heartfelt singing and his illumination of the Scriptures.

The annual Missionary dinner was served at the Baptist parsonage. It was an enjoyable gathering because of the freedom and good cheer that prevailed.

A W. C. T. U. silver medal contest took place at the Methodist Church. The judges were the Rev. C. E. Pike, Mrs. W. W. Bush and Shirley Babbitt. Florence Brady won the medal.

One evening, facing a wet snow storm from the east, Miss Ellen Lyman's Sunday School class and invited guests rode to the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Gilbert at Rushford Station. There was spread a bountiful repast to which all contributed. The company were entertained by songs, charades and other amusements. They returned home in a driving storm from the west.

The Sunday School class of Martin Lyon, with other guests, gathered at the home of Mr. Lyon to make him a surprise party. Clair Phelps, the infant son of the Rev. F. A. Johnson, made his first appearance in society upon this occasion. The evening was pleasantly passed in conversation and listening to the graphophone.

On February 14th the Sesame Club met with Mrs. F. E. White and on the same evening the Cynthian Club met with Mrs. H. E. Tarbell. At each place lessons were re-

## Rushford

cited, refreshments served and St. Valentine's day observed.

About thirty of the friends of Dr. and Mrs. William Bush made them a surprise party at their home.

A party was given by Mrs. Fannie McCall for her children, Ethel and Gordon.

A dance was held in Podonque.

On February 22nd, after their dinner at Romain W. Benjamin's, eighteen women of the Relief Corps, carrying flags, with A. J. Lyon as standard bearer, were taken by Mr. Benjamin for a ride in a hayrack drawn by a pair of oxen. The driver would say to the men whom he met with horses, "Look out for your horses; take the number of my auto; you must take your own risk." The entire turnout was a picturesque and patriotic spectacle. "Old Glory" seemed to gleam in the bright sunshine, midst the snow-drifts.

On the evening of February 22nd, a number of men whose wives are members of the Cynthian Club gave a banquet in Agricultural Hall to which they invited the Cynthians. The hall was decorated with the national emblems; the favors were cherries tied with yellow, the Cynthian color; and on the place cards were the words "The Best Men on Earth versus the Cynthians." Songs were sung by the hosts who, when encored, returned to sing original songs abounding in wit and humor aimed at the guests.

Friday evening, February 25th, at the Academy Hall, the Sunshine Club, consisting of the following members: Ethel Agett, Ethel Baker, Florence Brady, Flora Frost, Hazel Hadley, Florence Horton, Ethel Jenks, Mary Johnson, Violet Johnson, Imogene Lane, Blanche Lane, Myrtle Lane, Lucile McFarland, Libbie Owens, Eva Owens, Pearl Tapp and Pauline King, all members of the Sunday School class





Jesse P. Bixby, M. D., and Grandson, Clarence Wilmot

## Rushford

of Mrs. A. M. Tarbell, gave a delightful entertainment. Sixteen girls, dressed in white, having around their heads dark bands ornamented with clusters of pink roses, and around their necks untied ribbons also ornamented with clusters of roses, marched upon the stage to music. In the series of movements the climax was reached when of the ribbons a pagoda was formed. After the fancy drill and march, the band discoursed music which fell upon appreciative ears. The next and last number was a farce, "The Widow Sniggles." Widow Sniggles in black, with her seven daughters of varied gifts and in fitting costumes, made a picture not easily forgotten.

## RUSHFORD

H. J. W. G.

**R**USHFORD, township five, range two, of the Holland Purchase, is situated in the northwestern portion of Allegany County, with Centerville on the north, Caneadea on the east, New Hudson on the South, and Farmersville, Cattaraugus County, on the west. The township is six miles square. The population in 1910 was 1,262. The surface is hilly; the center of the town is 1,517 feet in height; the highest elevation of land, Taylor Hill, is 2,100 feet above sea level. It is well watered by Caneadea Creek and its tributaries, of which Rush and Indian Creeks are the largest. The scenery is always picturesque, whether in the spring with its tender green or in the autumn with its gorgeons coloring or in the winter when the drifts pile high. Because of its timber and water power Rushford once led the county in manufacturing, but its chief wealth today is

Tarb II House



## Rushford

in agriculture, especially dairying. Maple syrup and sugar of fine quality are manufactured.

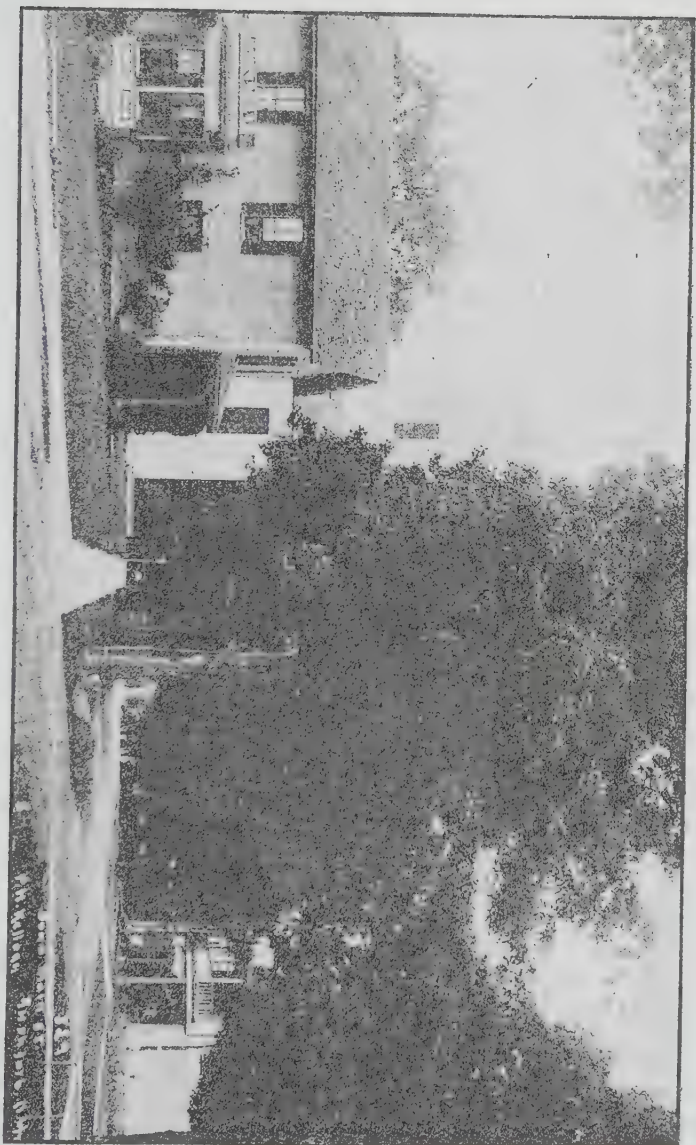
The village of Rushford, called by the early settlers *The Center*, is in the center of the town. It is laid out in three squares and one flatiron. That portion of the village south of the flatiron is called Gordonville. East Rushford, two miles from the center, sometime called Honeyville, consists of a small collection of dwellings, a schoolhouse, a saw mill, run by Leslie McElheney, and a gristmill, run by Clarence Stearns.

The Buffalo & Susquehanna Railroad traverses the eastern portion of the town about one mile. The station, called Rushford, is four miles from the Tarbell House.

On the north side of Main Street, the second building west of the center of town, is the Thomas Block in which are the Telephone Office, W. W. Thomas manager, the People's Bank of Howden & Hardy and the grocery of W. H. Woods. Next is the Concrete Block containing on the first floor the drug and department store of E. C. Gilbert, the clothing store of F. E. White and the postoffice—W. H. Thomas postmaster—and on the second floor the Masonic Hall where beside the Freemasons, the Odd Fellows,\* the Knights of the Maccabees and the Ladies of the Maccabees meet; the dental office of Dr. Wm. W. Bush is also on this floor. On the opposite side of the street are the harness shop of Myron Claus, and the Brick Block which contains on the first floor the furniture store of W. F. Benjamin and the dry goods and grocery store of J. G. James & Son, and on the second floor the office of the Rushford *Spectator*, and the law office of R. B. Laning. South of the Brick

\*Officers—Noble Grand, E. D. Hillary; Vice Grand, A. P. Benjamin; Warden, H. E. Austin; Chaplain, Charles Hall; Treasurer, W. W. Thomas; Recording Secretary, L. E. Hardy; Financial Secretary, J. A. Benjamin.





Upper Main Street

— courtesy of A P Benjamin



## Rushford

Block is the millinery store of Mrs. B. B. Heald; farther down the street is the hardware store of W. W. Merrill; next door and on the corner of Main and Lower Streets is the dry goods and grocery store of S. E. Taylor & Son. On the corner of West Main and Lower Streets is the meat market of F. W. Damon; just south of the market is the blacksmith shop of Herbert Austin. The Tarbell House is on the corner of West Main and Buffalo Streets. The shoe shop of Robert Murray is on Buffalo street. On the corner of Main and Upper Streets stands the hardware and grocery store of F. H. Metcalf & Co. Donald Sowersby's blacksmith shop is on Upper Street. The shop of Arthur Alderman, a worker in wood, is near his home on Upper Street. The wagon shop of J. G. Benjamin is on Upper Street, and that of W. K. Baldwin on Lower Street near Gordonville. The gristmill and sawmill of F. G. Gordon is west of the point of the flatiron. In the Hardy Block on Main Street is the barber shop of Charles Beaumont. Cement blocks are manufactured by W. W. Thomas on Main Street west of Agricultural Hall.

The cheese factories in the town of Rushford are the Rushford, owned by C. J. Elmer; West Branch, by J. F. James & Son; Hardy's Corners, by Charles Pettit; Po-donque, by Peter Loftis; Brookside, by Milton Gordon; Kelloggville and McGrawville, by Frank Hogg.

The physicians are Dr. J. P. Bixby on Buffalo Street, Dr. F. C. Ballard on Lower Street, and Dr. E. D. Kilmer on West Main Street.

In the High School six teachers are employed; and about one hundred and fifty pupils are in attendance. The school has always ranked well in the Regents' examinations; one of the pupils received a 96-count certificate with honor. The members of the school board are Charles L. Metcalf,

## Rushford

president; W. H. Leavens, secretary; D. W. Woods, Dr. E. D. Kilmer, F. W. Damon and B. H. Lane.

The entire membership of the four churches, including the Wesleyan Methodist Church on Rush Creek, is three hundred and twenty-seven.

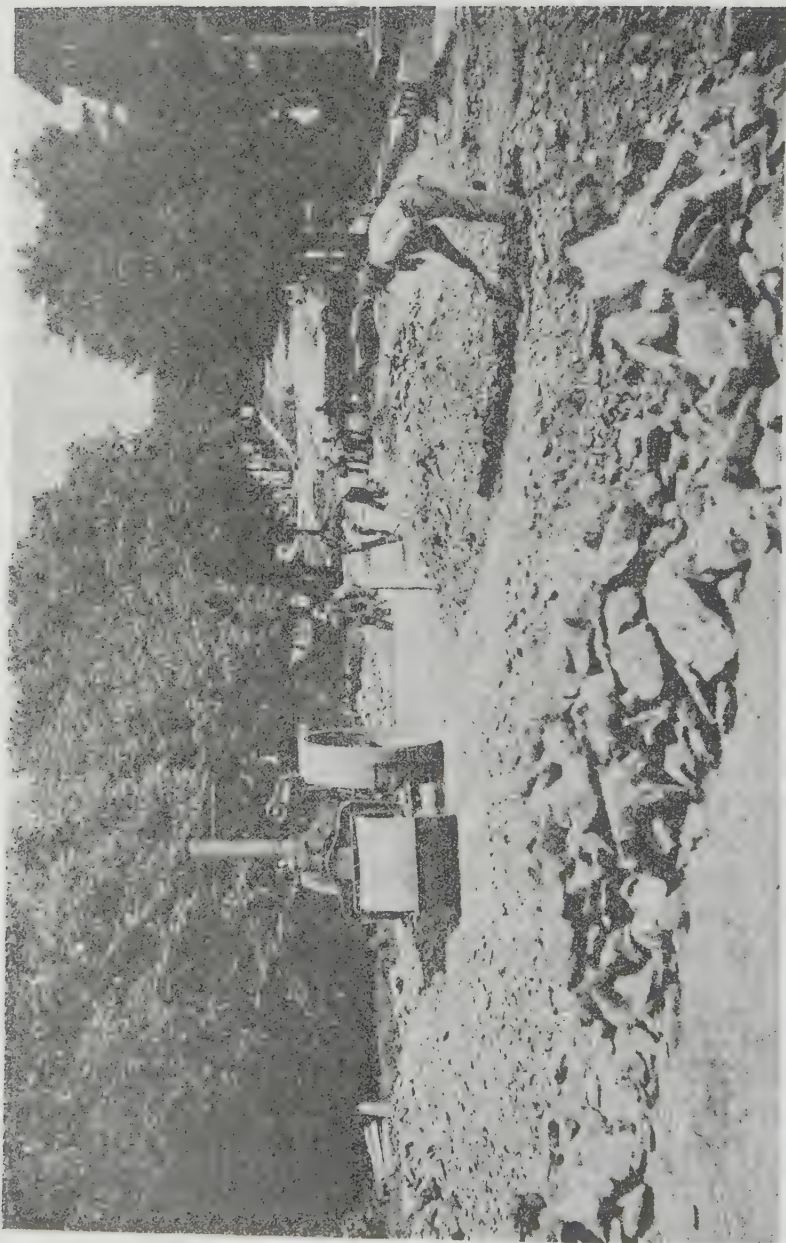
The Woman's Christian Temperance Union meets once in two weeks at the home of one of the members. Mrs. Sophia E. Taylor is the president. The town has had no license since 1886.

There are two literary clubs in town. The officers of the Cynthian Club are Mrs. W. W. Merrill, president; Mrs. Charles Beaumont, vice-president; Mrs. Edna King, secretary; Mrs. W. H. Leavens, treasurer, and Miss Ellen Lyman, leader. The subject for study is the "History of Rome." The officers of the Sesame Club are Mrs. Wm. W. Bush, president; Mrs. T. P. Poate, vice president; Miss Jennie White, secretary; Mrs. A. M. Tarbell, treasurer; Mrs. Jennie Westcott, conductor; and Mrs. E. C. Gilbert, expositor. The subjects for study for 1910-11 are "Historical Geography of Bible Lands" and selected poems of Tennyson. Each club meets Monday evening, the Cynthian weekly, the Sesame fortnightly, about seven months of the year.

The musical organizations are the band and the orchestra.

Members of the band: Dr. E. D. Kilmer, leader, solo cornet; Kendall Hardy, solo cornet; Clare R. Davis, first cornet; Abram P. Benjamin, tenor; Greydon R. Davis, trombone; DeWitt Stone, solo alto; Arthur Alderman, alto; Otho Olthof, alto; Kenneth Damon, alto; W. W. Thomas baritone; D. D. Gordon, b-flat bass; Warren Hardy, tuba; Allen Morrison, snare drum.

Members of the orchestra: Dr. F. C. Ballard, first vio-



The Man with the Shovel.—Building of the State Road by the Macahee Concrete Company, Main Street, looking east

## Rushford

lin; Mrs. J. A. James, first violin; Kendall Hardy, second violin; Mrs. F. C. Ballard, piano; Miss Bessie Thomas, first cornet; Clare D. Davis, first cornet; Warren Hadley, tuba.

The politics of the town is shown by the presidential vote in 1908: William Taft, 248; William J. Bryan, 60; Eugene Chafin, 32; Gilhaus, 1. Charles E. Hughes received 255 votes for governor. It is not rare, however, for the supervisor or town clerk or one of the justices to be a Democrat or Prohibitionist.

Although the village is not incorporated, the walks are excellent. Not long since a visitor said that he believed Rushford was the best painted place in the State. A public-spirited man each night lights the lamps on Main Street and, when all is still, with his lantern goes about the streets to see if "all is well."

May, 1910, work was begun on the cement house of John G. James and in June of the same year work was commenced on the State road which is to extend from the Gordonville bridge to Rushford Station. This is the first macadamized State road surveyed in Allegany County. The first survey was made when Frank Wayland Higgins was governor of New York State.

The Rushford Cemetery is especially well kept. Much credit is due Ralph B. Laning for its fine appearance. The much improved appearance of the First Burying Ground has been brought about largely through the efforts of Ansel Miner Taylor and his son Frank.

There has always been little of the spirit of caste in the place; after James Gordon moved to Rockport, he said that he often thought of Rushford with no one rich, no one destitute, everyone respected if he behaved himself. Rushford village, largely a residence place for retired farmers, contains one hundred and thirty-seven dwellings; it has a

## Rushford

tidy, well-to-do appearance and a quiet air, but there is in the town much power, else how could it have a great centennial, a history of the town and a State road, all within four years.

The needs of the town are an increased attendance at church, a stronger town spirit and a railroad.

The attitude of those who have spent a considerable portion of their lives in Rushford, is like that of Wilson ! Gordon, who says,

O Heaven as it is described,  
So beautiful and fair,  
Would be no Paradise to me  
If Rushford people were not there.









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